

BIBLE STORY LAND



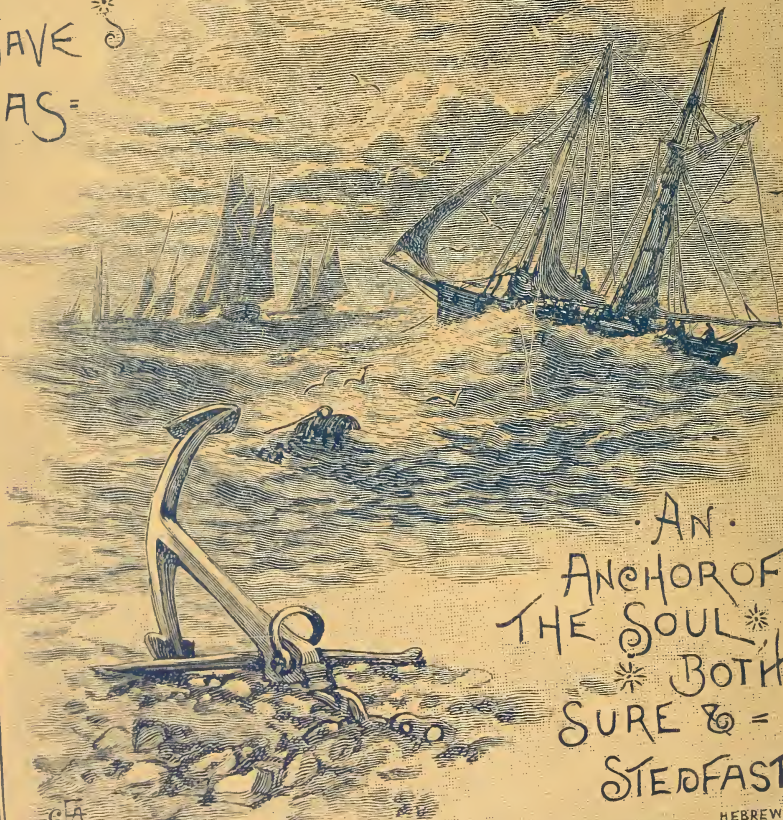
NEW TESTAMENT
EDITION

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WHICH
HOPE WE
HAVE
AS



AN
ANCHOR OF
THE SOUL
BOTH
SURE &
STEADFAST.

HEBREWS VI 19

THE HOPE THAT IS AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL.

BIBLE STORY-LAND

New Testament Edition

—FOR—

Home, School, and Sunday-School

MOST BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED

BY

MRS. ANNIE RANDALL WHITE.

Author of "Bible Story-Land," (Old Testament Edition); "Polite Society, at Home and Abroad," and formerly Editor "Young Folks' Monthly."

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INTRODUCTION.

In Bible Story Land, New Testament Edition, the author has sought to clothe the events of the Bible in such simple and plain language that no one can fail to receive the deep lessons which a perusal of its pages will convey to the youngest mind.

The Bible is the grandest book which has ever been given to man, and the child's education has not been completed, until it has been made acquainted with the high moral lessons inculcated within its pages.

Believing this fully, it has been a labor of love to place before our young readers a brief recapitulation of its most important events, and if it shall serve to awaken a love for that best of books, which shall stimulate the young student to a more extended acquaintance with its beauties and truths, the author will feel amply rewarded for the efforts spent in their behalf.

This volume comprehends the New Testament; in conjunction with Bible Story Land, Old Testament edition, of 1891, the story of the Bible is complete.

MRS. ANNIE RANDALL WHITE.

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LOOK TO JESUS.

O, eyes that are weary,
And hearts that are sore!
Look off unto Jesus,
And sorrow no more.
The light of His countenance
Shineth so bright,
That on earth, as in heaven,
There need be "no night."

Looking off unto Jesus,
My eyes cannot see
The troubles and dangers
That throng about me;
They cannot be blinded
With sorrowful tears,
They cannot be shadowed
With unbelief's fears.

Looking off unto Jesus,
My spirit is blest;
In the world I have turmoil,
In Him I have rest.
The sea of my life
All around me may roar,
When I look unto Jesus
I hear it no more.

Looking off unto Jesus,
I go not astray;
My eyes are upon Him,
He shows me the way.

The path may seem dark
As He leads me along,
But following Jesus
I cannot go wrong.

Looking off unto Jesus,
My heart cannot fear;
Its trembling is still,
When I see Jesus near;
I know that His presence
My safeguard will be,
For "Why are ye troubled?"
He saith unto me.

Looking off unto Jesus,
Oh, may I be found,
When the waters of Jordan
Encompass me round!
Let them bear me away
In His presence to be:
'Tis but seeing Him nearer
Whom always I see.

Then, then shall I know
The full beauty and grace
Of Jesus, my Lord,
When I stand face to face;
I shall know how His love
Went before me each day,
And wonder that ever
My eyes turned away.

CHAPTER I.

THE PROMISE FULFILLED.

You were told, dear children, in the Bible Story Land that a Saviour was foretold who would come and make all hearts glad.

The prophets had been promised a king who should arise from out of the House of David, to bring peace and joy to the world forever.

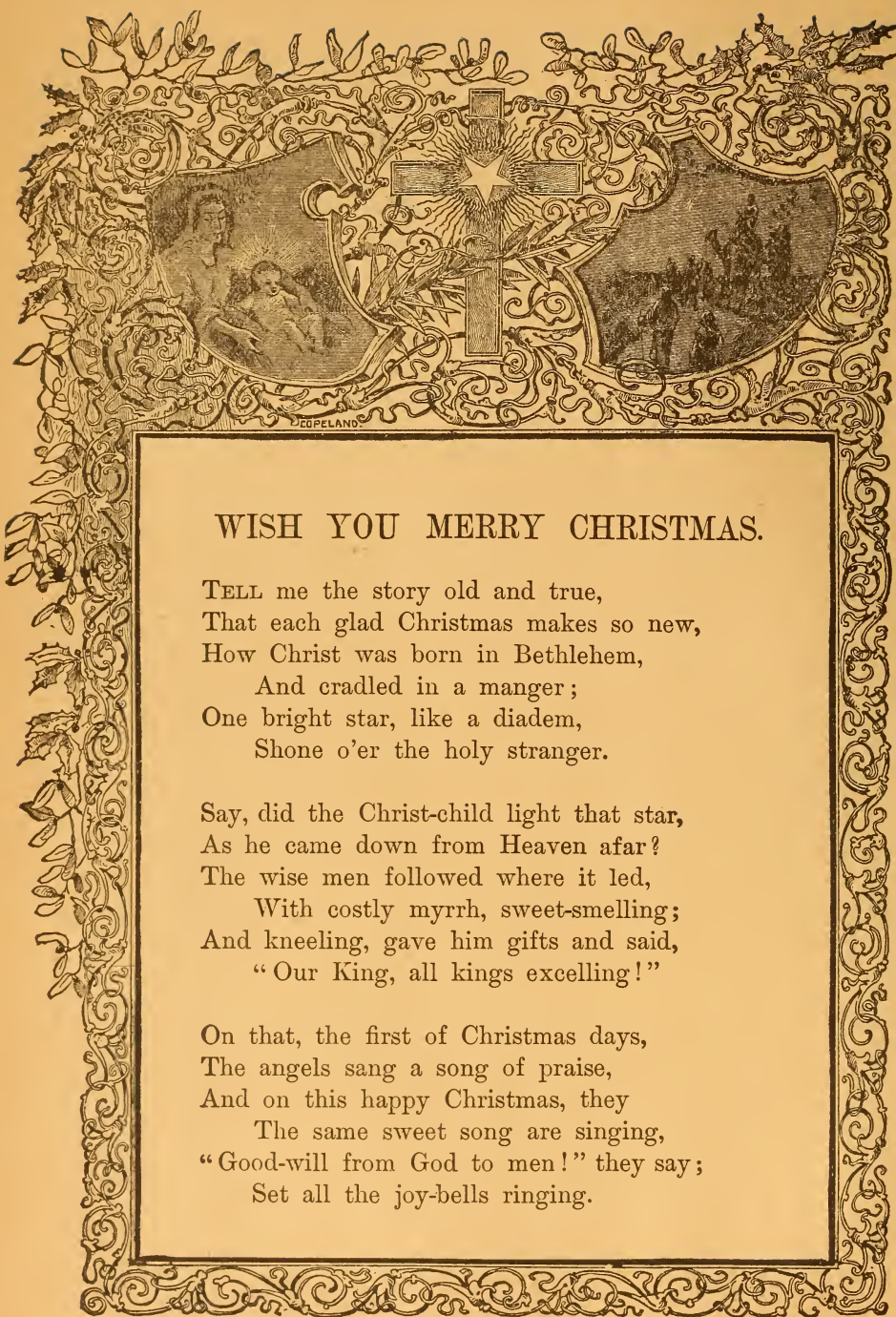
That promise had been made many, many years before, to Abraham. And it was fulfilled amply. For there came a time when a beautiful and pure young girl was chosen as alone worthy of this high honor—that of becoming the mother of this great king.

Mary was the daughter of Joachim and Anna, and both her parents were of royal lineage. Thus our Lord was directly descended from King David, and the prophecy was fulfilled.

In that same city where Mary was born, and where she yet dwelt, an angel came to her, and as she was alone in her home one day, she saw a man standing before her. She looked at him timidly, for his brightness overpowered her.

But when he spoke to her in gentle tones, he said words of cheer and comfort; and yet they sounded strange and mysterious to her, for he hailed her as among the most favored of women. And he bade her be rejoiced, for she was chosen as the mother of the future king, the Saviour of all mankind. And he told her that she must call the babe whom God was about to send her—"JESUS."

Scarcely daring to ask a question, she hurried away to her



WISH YOU MERRY CHRISTMAS.

TELL me the story old and true,
That each glad Christmas makes so new,
How Christ was born in Bethlehem,
And cradled in a manger;
One bright star, like a diadem,
Shone o'er the holy stranger.

Say, did the Christ-child light that star,
As he came down from Heaven afar?
The wise men followed where it led,
With costly myrrh, sweet-smelling;
And kneeling, gave him gifts and said,
"Our King, all kings excelling!"

On that, the first of Christmas days,
The angels sang a song of praise,
And on this happy Christmas, they
The same sweet song are singing,
"Good-will from God to men!" they say;
Set all the joy-bells ringing.

cousin, Elizabeth, who, though much older than she, was a dear friend, and together they rejoiced at the promised blessing.

But this grand event was already known to others, for there were shepherds who tended their flocks at night in the open fields, and an angel had also shown himself to them, and told



them of the birth of this wondrous babe, and they hastened to find him, that they might carry their simple offerings of fruits and doves.

These plain and honest men never doubted for an instant that the angel had told them the truth. He had promised them good tidings, and they received them into their hearts at once.

But there were still other men—men of wealth and learning, who were made acquainted with the fulfilment of the promise. They, like the shepherds, were led by a star which went before them, and whose rays were a guide to them, and which shone steadily down when they came to where the young child lay.

And these wise men (or Magi as they were called) were not men who dealt in magic, but were wise and learned princes of far Eastern countries. And they were given to watching the stars, for they were students of astronomy. When they saw the Star of Bethlehem they remembered the prophecy: "There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

So they rose at once when they saw that star, and journeyed on to Jerusalem. Their way lay over rough mountains, and deep streams, but they did not hesitate. They knew they should find that King who had been promised the whole world.

And when they reached that city they went on to Bethlehem, where they found the infant lying in a manger, and going in to the place, they threw themselves down before Him, and offered the rich gifts of frankincense and gold and myrrh which they had brought.

Mary was betrothed to Joseph, a man of good repute, who, when he was told by the angel that Mary was a pearl among women, was rejoiced to accept the great destiny which lay before them both. In his soul he thanked God for this great honor.

And when the wise men and the shepherds journeyed to Bethlehem to lay their offerings before the new born babe, how happy Joseph and Mary, the father and mother, must have felt,

to see that precious one already acknowledged as a king. They felt God's goodness to them was wondrous.

There were many others who were looking anxiously for a Messiah who should come and deliver them from their oppressors; but God had not revealed to them where His beloved Son was. That was a mighty secret known only to the shepherds and the wise men.

The people were very unhappy. Their rulers were hard and cruel, and made them pay such heavy tribute (or taxes as we would call it now) that they were almost unable to live. Herod cared nothing for their sufferings, and they all were waiting anxiously for the coming of that Messiah whom the prophets had so long before foretold. They knew He would make their burdens lighter.



SHEPHERD AND WIFE OF ANCIENT SHILOH.

CHAPTER II.

HEROD'S ANGER AND JEALOUSY.

It would not be possible, we think, for so strange a thing as the birth of a little child whose coming had led men to travel so far to worship Him, to happen, without its being talked about. So Herod, who was King of Judea, heard about Mary and Joseph, and the young child Jesus, and he was very much troubled. He called the Scribes and chief priests together, and asked them where Jesus was to be born. They, too, knew what the prophets of old had said, and they made answer:

“In Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet.”

And they told him that though Bethlehem was a small place, yet there should come out from it a governor who should rule all Israel.

This did not make Herod very much pleased, for he was wicked and jealous, and he feared he should lose his throne. He heard about the wise men coming to Judea, and he sent for them privately and asked them a great many questions about the star—when it had first been seen, and he talked very fairly to them, asking them to search for the babe, and when they had found Him, he wished them to come back and tell him just where He was, and he would go and worship Him also.

Don't you think, children, that any one would be deceived by such words as these? Even the wise men thought he was sincere, and they promised him that they would come back, as soon as they found Jesus, and tell him all they could.

When they left Herod, the star which had gone before them all the way, went "and stood over where the young child was."

How they rejoiced when they saw it stop. They knew then their long journey was ended, and they "rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

When they promised the cruel King Herod that they would come to his palace again, they meant to keep their word, for they thought he would be glad to worship the young child.

But God, who knows all hearts, saw the wicked feelings Herod cherished, and He warned the wise men in a dream not to return that way. So they left Bethlehem by another road, and went back into their own country.

When the little one was eight days old, Mary and Joseph went up to the temple to present their babe to the Lord.

And a devout man named Simeon was there, and when Mary held the babe in her arms, he took it and blessed God that, though he was so old he had been permitted to live to see the glory of God's people, Israel.

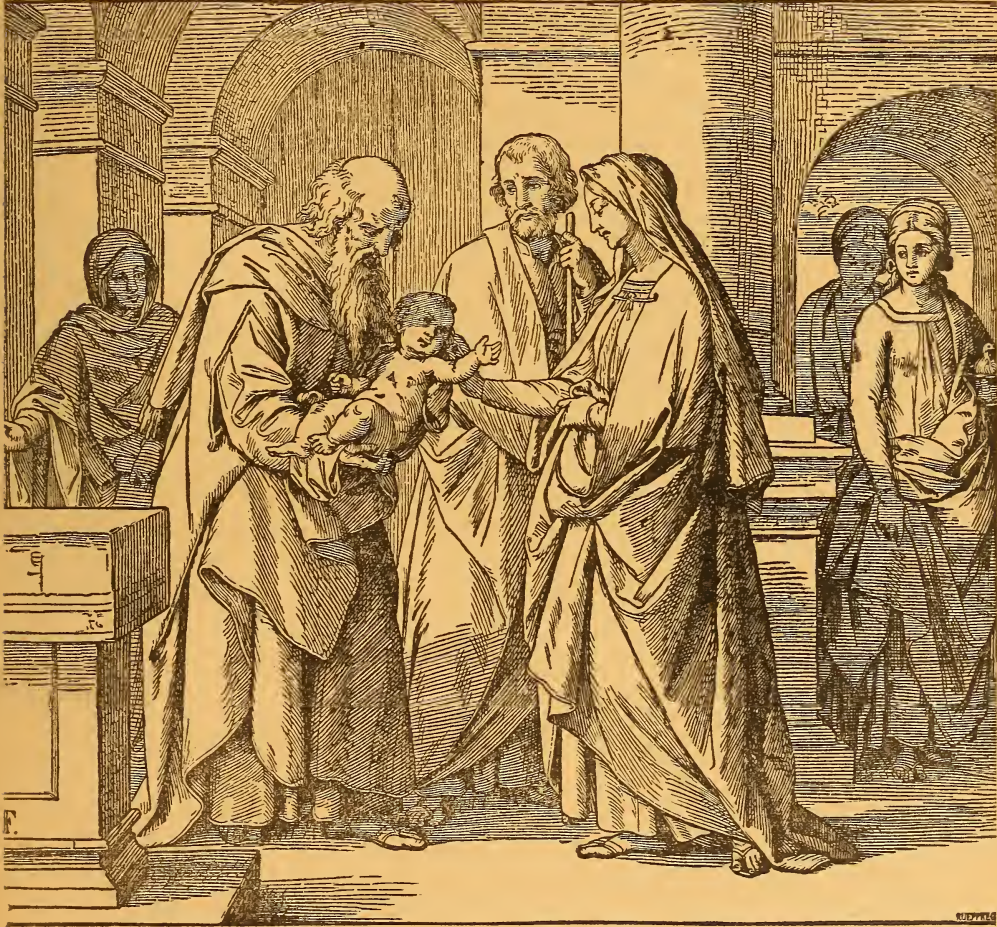
And the old man blessed them and prophesied that the infant was a sign for all the world, but he warned Mary that her heart should be pierced as with a sword.

And Anna, a prophetess, entering at that moment, thanked God that she too had seen the One who should bring redemption to all the world.

An angel of the Lord also visited Joseph in a dream, and warned him that Herod, the reigning king, sought the life of the young child. And he told him to go into Egypt and stay there till it was God's will that he should come back.

Joseph obeyed at once. He took the little babe and its

another, and he left Bethlehem in the darkness of the night, and fled away into Egypt, so that Herod could not know where they had gone, and could do no harm to the little child.



THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE.

But when Herod found that the wise men did not come to talk with him, he was very angry. He had felt sure he should discover where the babe was, and he had meant to take its life. Was he not wicked? He was a very old man,

and had already been a king thirty-seven years, and yet he could not endure the thought of giving up his throne to any one.

He had done many wicked things during his reign. He had murdered his own sons, and oppressed the poor, but now his wrath was so terrible, for he considered that he had been mocked by the wise men, that he planned a terrible deed—and that was, the massacre of all the little boys in the city of Bethlehem, and all the coasts around, who were two years of age and under.

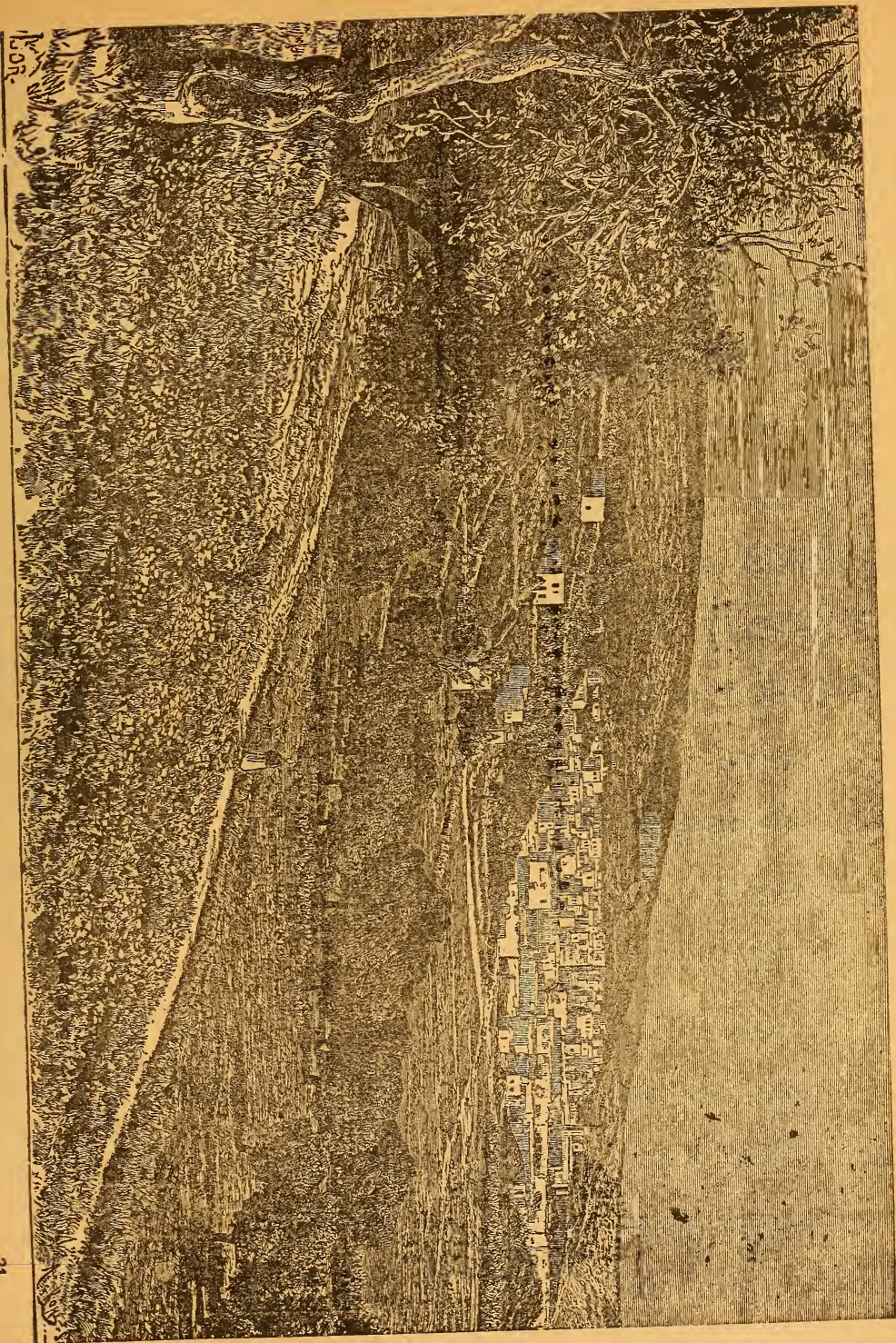
What a terrible command that was! And how the hearts of Joseph and Mary must have rejoiced to think their precious babe was safe from his anger.

But when that awful edict was carried out, a gloom must have settled down over that unlucky city. There was mourning in nearly every house. Their dear children were all sacrificed to the jealousy and anger of a cruel tyrant, and nothing could comfort them; their dear little ones were all murdered.

Herod was punished severely, for God sent diseases and pains that were so hard to bear that he tried to take his own life. And when he at last died, we do not think any one mourned, not even his own family.

When he was dead, God sent an angel again to Joseph, and told him to go into the land of Israel, for the one who had sought the young child's life was no longer alive.

Joseph was glad to know that he could go back with safety, but when he heard that a very wicked son of Herod's, Archelaus by name, was the king in the place of his father,



NAZARETH.

his heart was troubled. He knew that he ought to go back, and yet he was afraid of the new king, so he went into Galilee, to a town called Nazareth.

You see what a peaceful, pleasant town it was. And how



AN EASTERN SCHOOL.

happy those loving parents of the child Jesus must have been to dwell where everything was so lovely around.

Here he lived for many years. And here Jesus grew into manhood.

And here He went to school with other boys of His age.

The Jews were very strict about teaching their children. And it seems strange to think of the youthful Saviour studying as did other youths of His time.

When Jesus was twelve years old, his parents took Him up to Jerusalem to the Feast of the Passover.

Do you know, children, what this Feast meant, or why it was observed? Many long years before, the Lord smote all the first-born of Egypt, and the Israelites alone remained unharmed. So Moses instituted this festival in commemoration of the Lord's gracious mercy.

When the festival was first kept passover lambs were sacrificed on the evening of the fourteenth of the first spring month, and they were eaten the next night. All leaven was forbidden from the meals of that and the next seven days, and the first and the seventh day were considered holy.

But since the final destruction of Jerusalem, the Jews have celebrated this feast by eating unleavened bread for eight days, and held other ceremonies of a religious character.

Thus has the command of the Lord been obeyed, when He said to the Israelites:

“And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.”

When Jesus went up to this Feast, which had been kept so many years, He was very happy to think He should see the famous temple. Within its walls He spent all His time, earnestly arguing with the wise rabbis and doctors of law, who were amazed at the learning He showed. There was no question they asked Him which He could not answer at once, and correctly.



THE SAVIOUR IN THE TEMPLE ARGUING WITH THE RABBIS.

And they crowded around the boy with wondering looks;
for never had they seen so remarkable a child before.



THE BOYHOOD OF CHRIST.

But when Joseph and Mary were ready to go home, they missed their child, and with alarm they sought for Him among

the young people of his own age. Next they inquired of the older people. But no one had seen Him!

That mother's heart was filled with sadness. Where could He be? Oh, had He fallen into the hands of His enemies, and was she never to see Him again, were the questions she asked herself over and over again.

But they must know the worst, so back they went to Jerusalem, and after searching three days, with sad and despairing hearts, they found Him in an outer court of the temple, talking earnestly with the priests and learned men.

How thankful His mother was to see Him safe, but she could not help chiding Him a little, for the anxiety He had caused her.

But He asked her if she did not know He must do His Father's work.

What work do you think He meant? Why, teaching and calling sinners to repentance.

But He went home with Joseph and Mary, although He longed to stay in the temple, for that was His heavenly Father's house.

For many years, eighteen, He lived here with His parents, and toiled with His own hands. Yes, our Lord worked at the trade of a carpenter, and His mother was cheered by His companionship, and had the proud happiness of seeing Him grow to manhood. Still His foes had not found the dwelling-place of the future king of all the earth, although they had searched most diligently.

Truly Mary was happy, and yet she feared continually lest those who had sought His life would find Him and destroy Him.

CHAPTER III.

JOHN THE FORERUNNER—THE FIRST MIRACLE.

When our Saviour was about thirty, a great prophet arose, who preached in the wilderness of Judea.

This prophet was called John the Baptist. He came crying aloud, so that all the people heard:

“Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

He was a strange looking man—thin and wasted, and he wore a rough garment of camel’s hair, with a girdle to fasten it, and ate locusts and wild honey. He lived a self-denying life. He came to tell the people of the coming of the Saviour. It was now the Lord’s time when Jesus should go forth and preach, and John was His forerunner.

Now John knew not the Saviour as such; even though He was his cousin and had played with Him in childhood, yet he did not know who He was—that Jesus, the son of Joseph the carpenter, was the promised Messiah whom he had been sent to announce to all the people. For John himself was a great preacher, and baptized many.

And Jesus came from Nazareth to the place where John was, to be baptized.

John was asked by the priests and Levites from Jerusalem, “Who art thou?”

And he said at once, “I am not the Christ.” For he knew that they thought he was the promised One.

Again they asked him if he were Elias? And again he answered that he was not.

They became impatient, and bade him tell them who he was, that they might give an answer to those who sent them. And



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING.

he made reply that he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

They asked him why he baptized people, "if he were neither Christ, nor Elias, nor that prophet?"

But he said to them that he baptized with water only, but that the One who was coming to them, would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

"He it is," said John, "who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose."

The next day John saw Jesus, and at once the Spirit of God made him recognize Him as the true King, and he cried out in his conviction:

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"

John had been told by the Lord that when the real Messiah came, he should know Him by seeing the spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and resting upon Him.

And when Jesus asked to be baptized by John the Baptist, the latter felt he was not good enough to perform that office, but Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so."

And when John obeyed, then he knew more than ever that Christ was indeed the Lord.

Now others began to hail Him as the promised King. Two of John's disciples were first to follow Him. These were Peter and Andrew. He saw them mending their nets, for they were fishermen. He simply said to them—

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

And they left their homes and their occupation, and became at once His disciples.

Then Philip and Philip's friend, Nathanael, joined the others.

They all were sure that He was the gracious Lord whom they had been looking for so long.



THE CALL OF PETER AND ANDREW.

After Jesus was baptized, He began the work which His Father had sent Him to do—to call sinners to repentance.

But first He went into the wilderness, and there He lived

alone, save for the presence of His Father above, and He ate no food for forty days, but prayed and fasted.



CHRIST FASTING IN THE WILDERNESS.

Here temptation came to Him. Yes, dear children, even the Saviour was tempted by a wicked spirit who knew He was faint and weary with hunger. This spirit mocked Him, and

bade Him turn the stones upon the mountain into bread.

But Jesus told him bread alone would not sustain life, but the love of God and all good things must be present, else would man perish.

Then this same evil spirit carried Him up into a high mountain, and pointing out all the beautiful fields and woods and villages, promised Him all that He could see, if He would fall down and worship Him.

Jesus' answer was: "Get thee behind me, Satan. For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

The evil one was loth to give up his wicked attempt to conquer our Saviour. So once more he tried. He took Him to the temple and placing Him on one of the highest pinnacles he sneeringly said to Him that if He were the Son of God, he could throw Himself down, and receive no harm, for the angels would bear Him up, lest He should dash His foot against a stone.

Then Jesus rose up, and with the majesty of a divine nature ordered him to be gone, for He said, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

And the devil fled away, angry and defeated.

Thus you see, that when you are sometimes able to overcome one temptation, others may come which are harder to withstand. So do not feel too strong by yourselves, but humbly ask your heavenly Father to be with you, and guard you against all temptations, the small as well as the great.

Jesus now began to work miracles. At Cana, in Galilee, a wedding was held, and when Jesus, who had come back to see

His mother, found she had gone to this marriage feast, He went to the town that He might meet her. And He was bidden with



THE BEGINNING OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY.

hearty welcome to the house where the celebration was to be held.

You must know how glad Mary was to see her dear Son

once more. And how much she had to say to Him. But in the course of the evening the wine which it was the custom to have at all such gatherings, gave out. It had all been drank.

It seemed to Mary, who knew that to Jesus all power was



THE MARRIAGE AT CANA.

given, that now was a fitting time to have Him show that power. So she told Him quietly that there was no more wine.

Why do you think she said that to Him? Because her loving heart was growing impatient to see Him do something that should show to others who He really was. In those days mir-

acles were often worked by the prophets, and she knew that Jesus was more than a prophet—that He was the Lord and Saviour.

But Jesus was not quite ready to do anything strange and miraculous. He waited His Father's time, still, when He saw that the guests were without wine, He ordered the servants to fill six water pots that stood there with water, and bear the liquid to the governor of the feast.

They obeyed Him at once, and when the great man tasted the water which had been turned into wine, he praised its flavor loudly, and every one who drank was satisfied.

This was the first miracle that our Blessed Saviour performed.

And this miracle was done to give pleasure to a festive occasion. Wine was not used in those days as it is now. No feast or merry-making was complete without it, and it was drank in moderation. It was deemed a deep disgrace to use so much that it would make a man lose his sense of propriety and self-respect.

CHAPTER IV.

DRIVING OUT THE MONEY CHANGERS.

After Jesus had performed the miracle of turning water into wine, He went up to Jerusalem, for the Feast of the Passover was at hand.



IN THE PORTICO OF THE TEMPLE.

But here He found the temple profaned by the presence of those who went there to buy and sell, and exchange money. The sheep and oxen, and doves, which were to be sacrificed, made such a noise that those who went there to worship were greatly annoyed.



DRIVING OUT THE MONEY CHANGERS.

Jesus was angry at the desecration of the place, which should be kept sacred, and He made a scourge from small cords, and drove these wicked, selfish people from the temple and overturned the money changers' tables.

And to those who sold doves, He spoke more gently, but still firmly:

“Take these things hence. Make not my Father’s house a house of merchandise.”

From this time Jesus taught and worked miracles.



CHAPTER V.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.

Herod was very wicked. This king was the son of Herod the Great, who had put all the little boys to death, when our Saviour was Himself a babe.



JOHN THE BAPTIST IN PRISON.

He was as wicked as his father, and had thrown John the Baptist into prison, because he had reproved him for his sinful ways.

Our Saviour went to Galilee, and He passed through Samaria, till He came to a city called Sychar.

Here He sat down to rest, for He was weary and faint. He had walked nearly twenty miles, and neither He nor the disciples had tasted food that day. While He sat by a well which was known as Jacob's well, a woman drew near to fill her jar with water.

Jesus asked her for some of that cool liquid. This woman had not a tender heart, or she would not have answered Him as she did. She told Him that He was a Jew and she was from Samaria, and that the Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with each other.

Our Lord spoke very kindly to her, and told her if she loved God, and could know who was speaking to her, she would have asked Him for a drink, and He would have given her living water.

Think of the wonderful goodness of our Saviour, to speak to her so gently, when He had the power to have punished her for her selfish thoughts. Oh, children, those people who lived when He was on earth, were indeed blessed, and they knew it not. But you can have Him with you always, in your hearts, and it will make you grow more gentle and like Him, each day.

But when Jesus talked with her and told her about this living water, she grew more thoughtful and anxious to partake of it, and she listened eagerly to His words.

He sent her to bring her friends, that they too might hear the word of God. He told her that she needed to have no particular place to worship the Messiah in, for He was a spirit, and must be worshiped with the heart, and in truth. So you can

look up to Him everywhere, and reverence and love Him, at home, in church, at your play, or at your daily tasks. You can



THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA AT THE WELL.

feel that His love and care are about you everywhere, if you only ask His protection.

When the disciples came back with the food which they

had been to buy, they were amazed to see their beloved Master instructing this woman, for she belonged to a people who were unfriendly and even savage to strangers.



CURING THE LAME.

She was so eager to have others hear Him, for He had made her heart glad, that she left her water pot and went into the

city and called many men to the well, saying that a man who sat there had told her all the things she had ever done in her life.

“Is not this the Christ?” she asked, for her people, too, were looking for a Messiah who should come to rule over them some day.

When the men went back with her, and heard the glorious words of our Lord, they were, many of them, convinced that He *was* the Christ, and they begged Him to stay among them and preach.

He could only remain there two days, however, for His work lay in Galilee. But many believed on Him.

Jesus worked many miracles. The blind, the lame, the deaf, they who were born deformed and those whose minds were gone, all were objects of compassion in His sight. No one asked of Him help, and was ever rejected.

How He loved all His creatures—and does to-day, as much as then. For did He not give His life that all who asked pardon in His name, might receive it?

CHAPTER VI.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

The Scribes and Pharisees hated Jesus. He taught the people in the synagogues, and in every place. And He taught



AN EASTERN SYNAGOGUE.



"LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

them that they must love their neighbors. He went up into a high mountain, and when the multitude gathered around Him, He talked to them so that all could understand.

He said to those who stood or sat around:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

He meant that all who were humble and loving, would find a peace of mind that nothing else could give.

He promised blessings to those who mourn, for they should be comforted. And the meek were to inherit the earth. He said that those who were merciful should find mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.”

And the peacemakers were to be called the children of God. Is not that a beautiful promise; that those who love peace and purity are to be the children of God? No earthly honors or ancestry can equal that.

He told all who followed His teachings and lived good lives, that they were “the light of the world,” and their glory could not be hid.

He warned them not to hold anger against any one, but to be reconciled at once.

Swearing is a very bad habit. Any boy who is guilty of that sin soon loses his own respect, and the respect of others. Our blessed Saviour said unto all:

“Swear not at all; neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne;

“Nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King;

“Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.”

Will you not remember that, when you are tempted to say profane words? Shun those who use them. It is a sin which you should never commit.

The old law said, "Love your neighbor, and hate your enemy." But the law which the gentle Jesus taught, was that of love for all. Jesus taught that we should love those who hated us, and ask a blessing on those who say harsh and spiteful things to us. He wishes us to pray for all such.

"That ye may be the children of your Father, which is in heaven. For He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

That shows you how good and loving He is to those who do not deserve His kindness, as well as to those who do. And He asks you all to be as near perfect as you can.

It is very hard to say kind things to those who ill-use you. But you can do so, if you only try, and ask God to give you a patient disposition, and a loving heart. He knows how hard it is, but He is ever ready to help you. All you have to do, is to ask Him. You will soon grow strong in well-doing.

CHAPTER VII.

JESUS CAST OUT OF NAZARETH.

Jesus returned again to His old home, the peaceful city of Nazareth, where His boyhood had been spent.

The old friends and neighbors were glad to see Him, and they were proud of the fame He had won, though they did not accept Him as their Lord.

He went into the synagogue, as was always His custom, and the book of Isaiah was handed to Him to read from.

He read these cheering words from its pages:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.

"He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised.

"To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Then closing the sacred volume, He sat down and began to preach. It was the custom in those days for the preacher to sit. All eyes were fastened upon Him. And they listened, pleased at His gracious words and gentle manner.

But they began to question each other:

"Is not this the son of Joseph, the carpenter?"

He told them that He was sent with the message of redemption to them.

"No prophet is accepted in his own country," He said, sadly.

He warned them that God would send His grace upon

others more deserving if they were not careful. He told them of other peoples who listened and believed, and how they were blessed.

He chided them for their indifference to His mission, and as they heard Him, they began to grow very angry, and to ask what right He had to preach at all, and how He dared to reprove them.

How dared He, they said, claim to be the coming Messiah—He, the son of a carpenter, whom they had seen grow up in their midst.



"NO PROPHET IS ACCEPTED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY."

Their anger grew each moment more fierce, and from being glad to hear His loving words, they rose in a body and thrust Him from their midst.

Yes, these old friends and neighbors laid rough hands upon the gentle Jesus, whose heart was filled with love and compassion for them. Seizing hold of Him, they cruelly dragged Him out of the synagogue, and to the brow of a hill, where they would have hurled Him down, but He, passing through the crowd of angry men, hid Himself from their sight, and they could do Him no harm.

He never went back to Nazareth again.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

When our Lord left Nazareth, He went down to the quiet and beautiful Lake of Gennesareth.

Many people lived on the borders of this lake, who caught fish, and sold them in the towns around.

Peter was still fishing here. Often he had bad luck. No fish would come to his nets, and one day after Jesus had finished his sermon, He told His disciples to push the boat out into deep water, and let down their nets.

They had toiled all night, and caught nothing. When Peter obeyed him, the nets filled with fish so fast that their weight tore them in many places.

Peter called John and James to help him; soon the boats were full, too. How grateful Peter was. But the Lord told him that henceforth he must give up fishing, and follow Him.



MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

Near this lake Jesus worked faithfully in His Father's cause, calling sinners to repentance. People came to hear Him from far and near, for His words were so full of tenderest love, and His compassion for their sins was so great, that He touched many a heart that had been given over to evil.

He often entered the synagogues and taught, and still the people pressed around Him, until the house would hold no more. Then He went into the open air, where His voice could be heard by all.

Here He healed a man whose hand was withered.

The Jews were watching Him closely, and they murmured because He did good works upon the Sabbath day. He asked them if it were lawful to do good upon that day, or rather to do evil—to save life, or to kill? But they could not answer.

They determined to kill Him, and so they accused Him of casting out devils by the help of the prince of devils, Beelzebub, but He again puzzled them by asking, if He were Satan, how He could cast out Satan?

Our Saviour loved to talk in parables. He often told His hearers great truths under this guise. Thus He told them of a certain man who planted a vineyard and set a wine vat therein, and built a hedge all around it, and made it very beautiful for any one to occupy. He then rented it out to husbandmen, and when the fruits of the harvest were ready, he sent a servant to them, expecting to receive some of the products.

These ungrateful men beat the owner's messenger, and sent him away empty handed. Again he sent another servant, and he was treated worse than the other. The third man he sent was killed.

Still he bore with them, and now he thought, "I will send my only son, whom I love so dearly. Surely they will reverence him."

What did those wicked husbandmen do? They reasoned among themselves: "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours."

And they killed this young man, and cast his body from out the vineyard.

Then the anger of the master of the vineyard was roused, and he destroyed these men, and gave the vineyard to others.

The Pharisees who heard Him, knew that He read plainly the wicked thoughts in their hearts. He knew they meant to destroy Him, and they went away humiliated and angry.

But they were never weary of trying to make Him utter something which they could call treason, for they wanted the law to seize Him and punish Him. So they sent some of their learned men to Him, and asked Him if it were lawful to give tribute unto Cæsar?

The tribute money or taxes, were very heavy upon the people. They had to give tithes of money for each male citizen, and they had to give of the first fruits of the harvest, and the first-born of all their domestic animals. Then they were taxed for the poor, and taxed for their priests or ministers, as they are called to-day. So that a man had to give a great deal away in the course of a year.

They asked Him: "Is it lawful to give tribute to Cæsar? Shall we give, or shall we not give?"

He knew what hypocrites they were, and He bade them bring him a penny.

When He had looked at it He asked, "Whose is this image, and whose this superscription?"

And they said, "Cæsar's."



"RENDER UNTO CÆSAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CÆSAR'S."

And Jesus answering, said: "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's."

He meant that Cæsar was an earthly king, and should receive earthly tribute. But God, who is our heavenly King, desired the purer tribute of an obedient and adoring soul.

Jesus sat in the temple, and saw the Pharisees coming in, and He knew they all made great pretence of humility.



PHARISEES ENTERING THE TEMPLE.

While He was watching the people passing in and out, and saw them casting their coins into the treasury, He observed that many of them, who were rich, gave largely.



THE WIDOW'S MITE.

“And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

“ And He called unto Him the disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury.

“ For all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”

CHAPTER IX.

CHRIST'S LOVING DEEDS.

Jesus came down from the mountain, and the people followed Him in great crowds. His work was just begun, and while many doubted, great numbers listened gladly to His words, and believed that He was the King for whom the weary people, weary with waiting, had looked so long.

A leper came to Him, and with perfect trust said:

“Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.”

His faith was rewarded, for the divine hand was put forth, and the leper, whose unclean body filled all with terror, was touched, and lo, he became clean and fresh as a little babe.

A centurion, who was a great man in those days, for he commanded many men, begged Jesus to come and see his servant, whom He was very much attached to, and who was home sick with the palsy. This centurion, though rich and influential, was very humble in his prayer, and asked the Saviour merely to speak the word, and his servant would be a well man.

His humility so touched the heart of Jesus that He told those who were near, that He had not seen such great faith, no, not even in Israel.

He granted the officer's petition, and healed the servant.

And He cured the mother of Peter's wife, who lay ill with a fever.

Thus you see, children, that all our Lord's acts were acts of mercy, all His teachings were those of love. Do you not think

But on their way, they met a messenger, who said they need not come now, for the girl was dead!

How that father must have felt! All the joy must have gone out from his heart at once. But Jesus looked tenderly on him, and said:

“Be not afraid, only believe.”

What did He mean?

They came to the house where the dead girl lay. Here the mourners were screaming and crying, and tearing their clothes. And Jesus said calmly to them:

“Why make ye this ado, and weep? The maiden is not dead, but sleepeth.”

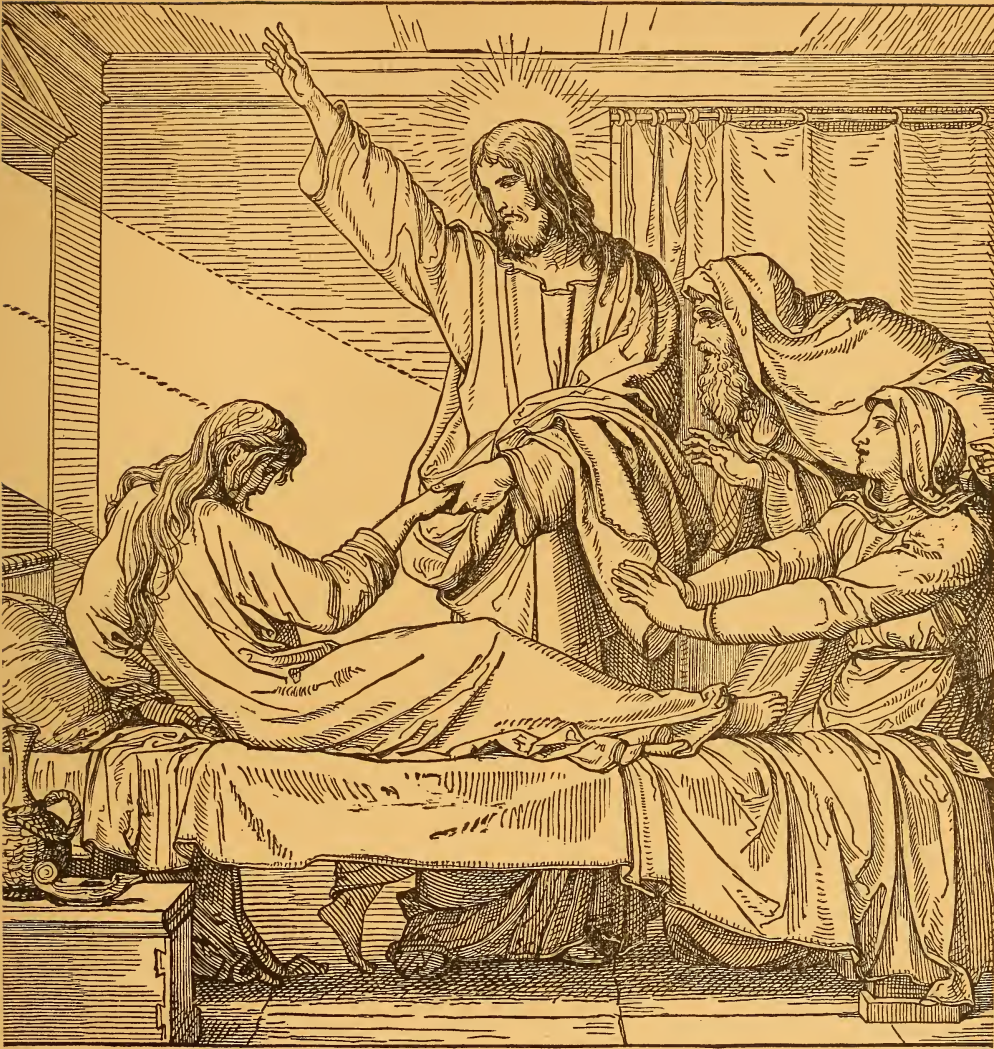
And the mourners “laughed Him to scorn.” But He sent them all away, and taking the parents into the death chamber, and Peter, and James and John, He went to the couch where she lay so still and cold, and taking her by the hand, He said:

“Maiden, I say unto thee, arise.”

And she rose up, as bright and well as she was before she was taken sick. And He told her father and mother to give her something to eat.

Now Jesus called unto Himself the twelve apostles, and sent them away, two by two, and gave them power to do His work—to cast out evil spirits, to heal the sick, and to preach salvation. And everywhere the people were praising this great Teacher, who was performing miracles, and teaching the people a new doctrine—one of love to all men.

When Herod heard of it, his conscience grew fearful. For he thought that John the Baptist had risen from the dead, and would upbraid him.



CHRIST RAISES THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS.

Herod had thrown John into prison, because he had blamed him (the king) for his evil life. Herod had made his brother's wife queen, which was very wicked. And Herodias, as this wicked woman was named, hated him. And one day when Herod had a large number of nobles at his palace in honor

of his birthday, she sent in her daughter Salome, to help entertain the king's guests.

Salome danced very gracefully, and Herod was so pleased



WELCOMED TO EVERY HOUSE.

with her that he made a vow that she should have whatever she wished, even if it were half his kingdom.

The young girl did not think of anything which she needed, and so she ran and asked her mother what she should ask for, and that wicked queen told her to demand the head of John the Baptist.

The young girl was not frightened at her mother's order, but went at once to Herod, and asked that the head of the prophet might be brought to her upon a charger. That was a dish much in use, something like a platter.

The king was much troubled, but he had sworn an oath that he would give her what she asked, and he dared not break it,



SALOME DANCES BEFORE HEROD.

so he sent an executioner secretly to the prison, and John was beheaded, and the head was brought to Salome, who took it to her mother, who was happy now that she had this good man slain.



EXECUTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

And the disciples of John went to the prison, and sadly took the body of their teacher and guide, and laid it away in the tomb.

No wonder that Herod was filled with terror when he thought that the prophet whom he had murdered was risen from the dead. But Jesus departed into a desert place without letting any one save His disciples know where He was going.

But He could not keep the people from following Him. They ran ahead of Him, and they followed on behind, and His loving heart would not let Him refuse to teach them, for He saw they were as sheep without a shepherd, so He taught them many things.

As the night drew near, the disciples wished Him to send them away to their homes, and into the villages near by, for they were hungry, and there was no food for them.

Jesus bade them feed them, but they told Him how little they had, and He said:

“How many loaves have ye?”

When it was counted, they had but five small loaves, and two fishes.

He commanded them to sit down upon the grass, in companies of hundreds and fifties, and taking the loaves and fishes He looked up to heaven, and blessed the bread and broke it, while His disciples went round among the people who sat upon the grass, and gave it to them. And the two fishes were divided in the same manner.

All ate heartily, and when the meal was over, the disciples gathered up twelve baskets of fragments.

Think of the wonderful kindness of our blessed Lord. He taught and filled their souls with the true food which would fit them for a happy life after death, and yet this divine being remembered that they were human, with earthly needs, and He ministered unto them also.

CHAPTER X.

THE SOWER—HUSHING THE STORM.



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

A parable is a story with a hidden meaning, or rather one which can be applied to certain truths. One which our blessed Lord told was the parable of the sower.

The multitude was so great that the Saviour left the shore, and went into a ship which was moored there, and then He spoke about the man who went forth to sow seed.

Some seed was scattered so carelessly that it fell by the side of the road, and the birds picked it up.

Some fell on stony ground, where the earth was so shallow that it sprang up at once. And as soon as the sun rose, it scorched the young plants, because they had no good root, and they withered away.

More seed fell among thorns, and the thorns choked them.

But some of the seed fell on good ground, and brought forth plenty of good fruit.

Children, which soil would you wish your hearts to be—the careless, unthrifty one where the good thoughts that spring up do not live because the selfish thorns choke them, or the rich, good soil where pure deeds and kindly acts thrive and grow, till they bear fruit that will nourish all around?

I am sure you all would wish the good thoughts to live forever.

The Saviour and His disciples were exhausted. For hours He had been talking to the people, and worn and weary, He lay down in the boat as it glided over the Lake or Sea of Galilee, and fell fast asleep.

A terrible storm came up; one of those so common in that country. The boat rocked to and fro, now dipping almost to the water's edge, and now riding high upon a wave which seemed ready to swallow it up.

The disciples were alarmed. They knew their Master was tired, and yet they were so terrified that they almost began to fear He did not care for them.

“Master,” they cried, “carest thou not for us!”

He heard their cry, and rising, He said to the angry waves:

“Peace, be still!” and at His command, the howling wind died away, the waters became still, and all danger was over.

The next morning they crossed the sea over into the country of the Gadarenes.



HEALING THE DEMONIAK IN THE CAVES.

As they landed, a fearful looking being rushed angrily at them. He was a lunatic, a man who had lost his reason. He dwelt among the rocks and caves, and no man could calm him, and no man knew where he found his food.

When he came running toward the Saviour, the disciples

trembled. They saw he was a man of immense strength, and what was their surprise to hear him say:

“What have I to do with thee, O Son of the Most High!”

Jesus answered:

“Come out of this man, you unclean spirit!”

The spirit screamed fiercely, but it had to obey.

The Saviour inquired of the man his name.

“My name is Legion—for we are many.”

This meant that more than one spirit tormented this poor man. They begged of Jesus that He would send them into a herd of swine that were feeding a short distance away.

He said: “Go.”

As soon as the spirits entered the swine, the whole of them, two thousand, ran down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned.

And the man who was cured, went to his friends and told them what Jesus had done for him.



COSTUMES OF WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM.

CHAPTER XI.

CHRIST WALKING ON THE WATER.

How bitterly the Pharisees and Scribes hated our Saviour. They were jealous of the hold he had upon the hearts of the people, and they feared their old laws and customs would be overthrown, if He were allowed to continue teaching.

They watched Him continually, ever finding fault with Him, and trying to make Him say or do something that would be breaking their laws, so that they might seize Him and torment Him.

They tempted Him to give them a sign from heaven, but He sighed at their hardness of hearts, and told them they should have no sign.

But from this time forth, Jesus began to prepare His disciples for the sad days which were coming, when He should go up to Jerusalem, and suffer many insults at the hands of the elders and the people. He also told them He should be killed, but He should be raised again on the third day.

He lamented over Jerusalem, that city which He loved so dearly, and which was to be His place of suffering.

It grieved these faithful followers to hear Him talk of His coming trial, and Peter in a sudden burst of grief, seized hold of His garments as if to keep Him back, and cried out:

“Lord, this shall not be unto thee!”

Jesus turned, and said sternly to Peter:

“Get thee behind me, Satan! Thou art not of the things that are of God, but those that be of men.”



CHRIST MOURNING OVER JERUSALEM.

You see it was the will of His Father in heaven that these things should happen, and Peter was unconsciously trying to prevent their fulfillment.

After the hungry crowd had been filled by the wonderful power of the Saviour's bounty, He retired to a mountain side to pray.

Though the night was dark and dreary, Jesus felt refreshed, because He could pray to His Father without being molested.

The disciples had entered the boat, intending to sail to the other shore. But the storm was so severe they were nearly

powerless to guide the boat through the stormy waters.

They were beginning to fear that they should be wrecked, when in the darkness of midnight they saw a man walking upon the water as easily as they could tread the dry land.

Instead of feeling assured, they were alarmed, and cried out in terror:

“It is a spirit!”

Jesus’ reassuring voice was heard, and these were the words He spoke:

“Be of good cheer. It is I. Be not afraid.”

Peter could not have really believed it was his Master, else he would not have asked Him if it were truly Jesus, if He would let Him come to Him on the water.

“Come!” said his Lord.

At once Peter went over into the water, and tried to walk. But he sank, and earnestly he cried:

“Lord, save me!”

Jesus asked Peter why he had so little faith. And he could not answer. But the disciples felt happy now that their beloved Lord was in the boat with them again, and the storm died away, and they landed in safety on the opposite shore.



CHRIST WALKING ON THE WATER.

CHAPTER XII.

THE SINFUL WOMAN.

Christ's life was no longer safe in Jerusalem. Plots were laid constantly to get possession of His body.

He knew their evil designs, but it had no effect upon Him. As ever, He labored to help all who would be helped into a better way. His work was a high and glorious one, and He regarded not His own safety.

A rich Pharisee sent Him an invitation to come and dine with him. Now Simon was not a real enemy of the Saviour's, neither was he an open friend. He wished to hear what Jesus would talk about. So he asked several friends of his own sect to come, too.

How did Simon receive this guest whom he had asked to his table? In the same manner as he did the others, with a kiss of peace? And did he instruct his servants to wash His feet, and anoint His head with oil?

Oh, no, this haughty Pharisee would not pay this compliment to a guest of such lowly estate. He perhaps felt he had paid Him attention sufficient by asking Him to his house.

The guests were many, and were all placed around the table, reclining on couches, as was the custom in that country. Jesus was among them, and many questions were asked Him, you may be sure.

While they sat at the table, eating and talking, a woman came in who was so wicked that the Pharisees drew back in disdain.

Going to the Saviour, she threw herself at His feet, and



CHRIST IN THE HOUSE OF THE RICH PHARISEE.

while the tears of sorrow for her sin flowed freely down her face, she took a box of costly ointment from her pocket, and began to bathe His feet with her tears. She then wiped them with her long hair, and poured the precious ointment upon them.

Simon was very indignant. "Surely," he thought, "if this man were a prophet, He would know just who this woman was."

The Pharisees had no pity for those they called sinners. They thought they were so holy themselves that no one should approach them who was wicked.



CHRIST'S FEET WASHED BY THE REPENTANT WOMAN.

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. And so He said, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

The host nodded his head, and bade Jesus say on.

Then our Lord told him a story of a man who lent two other

men some money. One man owed him a very large amount, but the other one only owed him a little. When he found neither could pay him back the money, he freely forgave them both.

Now Jesus asked Simon which of those men would love their creditor most?

Of course Simon made answer that the one who owed him most would love him best.

Jesus told him he was right.

So you see no one need be afraid to go to God, no matter how deeply he may have sinned against Him, and ask His forgiveness.

Then the Saviour turned toward the woman, and said:

"Simon, this woman came into your house, and washed my feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. You gave me no water for my feet when I entered your door. No oil was put upon my head, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

"Her sins were many, but they are forgiven. She loved much, but those to whom little is forgiven, love little."

The guests who heard these words were amazed, and asked who this man was who forgave sin.

And He said to the sorrowing woman: "Go in peace."

And as He went through the villages many women welcomed Him, and ministered unto Him.

Among these women were Joanna and Susanna, and many others. Some of those who were so kind to Him, and cared for His needs, were those from whom He had driven unclean spirits.

Mary Magdalene was among them. Our Saviour had cast out seven devils from her, and now she was a good and pious woman.



CHRIST DRIVING THE SEVEN DEVILS OUT OF MARY MAGDALENE.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE TRANSFIGURATION.

In six days from the time when Jesus had made His disciples so sad by telling them of His coming death, and when Peter had been almost led into great sin by declaring that it should not be, the Saviour took Peter, James and John, and together they went up into a high mountain, apart from the rest of the disciples.

This mountain was very high and hard to climb. The three followers were very weary. They had preached and labored hard all that day, but yet they were ready to follow Him wherever He led the way.

When they reached the top of the mountain, they were so exhausted that while their dear Master went a little way off to pray in silence, for still further strength, these tired men fell fast asleep.

They were suddenly awakened by what seemed a bright light, and they saw Jesus standing between two men, whom they knew were Moses and Elias.

And the face of the Saviour shone like the sun. A light beamed from it which was so bright it almost dazzled them; and His garments were white and shining.

Peter's heart was full of awe and reverence. He said to the Saviour:

“Lord, it is good for us to be here.”

He wanted to build three tabernacles there; one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Even while he was speaking, a luminous cloud appeared, and a voice came from it, saying:

“This is my well-beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him.”

The disciples fell upon the ground, with their faces hid, for they were afraid.

But they felt the gentle touch of Jesus, and heard His dear voice bidding them to rise, and to have no fear.

And lifting up their eyes, they saw that their Master was alone. The prophets had passed from their sight. Jesus charged them to tell no one what they had seen until after He had risen from the dead.

And they spoke of it to no man.

The next day as they came down the mountain side, a man pushed his way from among the crowd of people who met Him, and hailing Him as Master, told Him about his young son who was possessed by a spirit that tore him, and dashed him around, and made him foam at the mouth.

The man told Jesus his pitiful story as he knelt before Him, beseeching Him to help the boy.

He told the Saviour how that he had asked the disciples to cure his boy, but they could not do it.

Jesus bade him bring the boy to Him, and rebuking the evil spirit, it left him, and from that moment the child was well.

The disciples asked Jesus why they had failed to cure this case, and He told them that they had not prayed or had faith enough.

How ashamed they must have been to think their Lord had to reprove them for their lack of earnestness. He had taught

them and prepared them to take up His work of love and healing, and yet they were wanting in faith!

Just after this reproof, which should have wounded them to the heart, He heard them disputing as they walked ahead of Him on their way to Capernæum.

Not a word did Jesus say about their quarreling until He reached the house where they were to stay and rest. Then He asked them what they were saying?

And again they had to confess what they should have been ashamed of—that they were arguing which should be the greatest when they should come into the kingdom of heaven!

For they knew their Lord would be a king, and they felt sure that they should be with Him in glory, and they each thought that he himself should be the one to receive the greatest honor.

Jesus answered them thus: Calling a gentle little boy unto Him, He pointed to the child, and said:

“Except your hearts are changed, and you become as little children, you cannot come into the kingdom of heaven.”

He told them further, that the one who was as humble and unpretending as that child, would be the greatest in heaven.

Little children, are you always humble and gentle, thinking more of the happiness of others, than of your own? That is as your precious Saviour would have you. Every child can become this, if he tries. It may be hard to conquer all selfishness, but when you have succeeded, how happy you will feel. For you will be sure that God loves you, and you will be filled with joy.

Daily the labors of our blessed Lord grew greater. The



"EXCEPT YOU BECOME AS ONE OF THESE," ETC.

world seemed full of sin and suffering; from all parts came the sick, asking that Jesus give them His healing touch; the sad and sorrowing came to hear the precious words of comfort that fell from His lips.

So He sent out seventy men to whom He gave power to do

the works which He did; to heal and instruct. And to them He said:

“The harvest is great, but there are few to labor in the fields.” He told them to carry neither money, nor scrip, nor shoes, and to spend no time idly talking by the way.

When they entered a house, they were to say: “Peace be to this house.”

If they were not received kindly, they were to leave the place, and to shake off the very dust that was on their feet. And they went forth on their errand, and returned joyfully, for they had done great works through the power of God’s holy name.

Christ likened Himself unto a shepherd, who careth for his sheep.

How these words ring in the ears of all who love Him:

“I am the good Shepherd. The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”

Is not that a joyous thought that our Lord loves us so that we are to Him as sheep, whom He will gather into His fold? That He will lead us and care for us, wherever we are? You know David, the Psalmist, wrote a tender song when he said:

“The Lord is my shepherd; *I shall not want.*”

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.”

CHAPTER XIV.

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE.

A feast held in great honor was now drawing near.

This festival was held to commemorate the goodness of God in giving them abundant crops of fruits and grains.

Every one who could leave home journeyed up to the holy city to partake of its enjoyments. From far and near they came.

Jesus refused to go with His kindred when they invited Him. They could not persuade Him to go with them, so they started on without Him.

But after the town was nearly deserted, He followed on, with His disciples.

This feast lasted eight days. On the fourth the Jews, who had been anxiously asking for Him, were surprised to see Him enter the Temple, and at once begin to preach to all who were there.

Jesus sat in a porch in the temple, called Solomon's. As usual, the Jews, who hated Him so bitterly, gathered around Him and urged Him to tell them truly if He *were* the Christ.

They wanted Him to declare that He was, so that they could find fault with Him, and also find an excuse for their own hatred.

He told them that He had told them that He was, and they would not believe Him. Neither would they heed His voice, because they were not His sheep.

He also said to them that He gave them eternal life, as did

Jesus repeated His words that He was the Son of God, and that the Father and He were one.

Now their anger rose to a terrible point, and they seized stones to kill Him. But He passed out of their sight. In a moment He was gone, and they knew not where to find Him!

While He was in the Temple, among other things which they did to torment Him, they brought a woman into His presence, whom they despised, for she had done some sin which, by their law, was punishable with death.

They tried to make Jesus say what should be done with her.



"HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN LET HIM CAST THE FIRST STONE."

Again and again they put the question to Him, but He remained silent.

Stooping, He began to trace letters upon the ground, as though He heard them not.

At last growing weary of their persistence, He raised Himself to His full height, and looking sternly about Him upon the cruel and pitiless men who gazed so angrily upon the shrinking woman, he said:

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”



A JEWISH WEDDING CEREMONY.

Every man knew that he had sinned in some way quite as deeply as this poor woman, and not a word did they answer, but stole away, one by one, until only Jesus remained.

Turning to her, He said in gentlest tones:

“Who accuses thee? Has no man condemned thee?”

She said: “No man, Lord.”

His answer was: “Neither do I condemn thee. Go, and sin no more.”

CHAPTER XV.

RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD.

About fifteen furlongs from Jerusalem was a beautiful little town called Bethany. It was situated on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. Its name had a very pretty meaning—"Bethany, the house of song." Although it was quite a good-sized place so many hundreds of years ago, to-day it is nearly desolate, for not more than twenty families live there.

In that village a small family consisting of two sisters and a brother dwelt, whom Jesus loved very much. Whenever He was near Bethany He always went to their home. The two sisters were never so happy as when He honored their house with His presence, though they received Him in a very different manner.

Martha, the eldest, loved to show her respect by putting the house in order, and preparing Him nice meals, but Mary would neglect to help Martha about these tasks, and chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear Him talk. She thought most of learning from Him how to live, and how to be ready to die.

Jesus loved them both, and they loved Him as their best friend.

Lazarus, their brother, fell very ill, and they sent word at once to Jesus, saying:

"Lord, he whom thou lovest, is sick."

His answer was, that this sickness was not unto death, but that God might be glorified. And although the sisters had begged Him to come, for they felt that He could cure their



CHRIST AT MARY AND MARTHA'S.

brother at once, He staid two days more where He then was.

He then said to His disciples that they would go into Judea, but they tried to persuade Him not to, for they remembered that the Jews there had taken stones in their hands to stone Him to death.

He said that Lazarus, their friend, slept, but He must go and awaken him.

The disciples told Him that if Lazarus slept, he was getting better. Jesus knew that they did not understand Him, and He spoke more plainly:

“Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, for I want you to believe. But we will go to him.”

Thomas, sometimes called Didymus, felt very sad. He feared his Lord would be killed, but He was anxious to be with his beloved Master, and he said to the others:

“Let us go, too, that we may die with Him.”

So they all went with Jesus, and when He reached Bethany He found that Lazarus had lain in the grave four days already.

Martha was the first to meet Him, and her greeting was a sort of reproach, for she knew how Jesus loved her brother, and how able He was to heal, and she said, very mournfully: “Lord, if you had only come, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus answered, “Thy brother shall rise again.”

Martha said she knew that he would rise in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said to her: “I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

Martha hurried back to the house and called Mary out very quietly. The house was full of Jews who had come to stay with the sisters a short time, so as to console them in their sorrow, but Martha was careful to call Mary out secretly, lest they should know Jesus was there, and again attempt His life.

Mary rose up so suddenly, that the Jews thought she was

going to Lazarus' grave to weep, and they followed her to give her some words of comfort.

As soon as she came where Jesus was, she fell down at His feet, crying as Martha had: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

You see what faith they both had in His wondrous power; the same faith that all little children should have—that He is able and willing to help to the uttermost.

It troubled the tender heart of the loving Saviour to see the distress of Mary and Martha, and He asked them where they had laid Lazarus.

And they said: "Come and see."

Jesus wept.

The tears flowed down His own face, at thought of their great sorrow. And some of the Jews who had followed Mary, said:

"Behold, how He loved Him!"

Others said it was strange that a man who could open the eyes of the blind, could not have kept Lazarus from dying.

They all came to the sepulcher. It was in a cave, and a huge stone was rolled over the opening. Jesus commanded some of those who stood near, to remove this stone. But Martha did not want to have her brother seen, for he had been dead four days, and she was afraid he would be very much changed.

Jesus chided her, asking her if He had not told her to believe and she should see the glory of God. So they took away the stone, and Jesus, looking up to heaven, thanked His Father that He had heard His prayer. Then in a loud voice, He called:

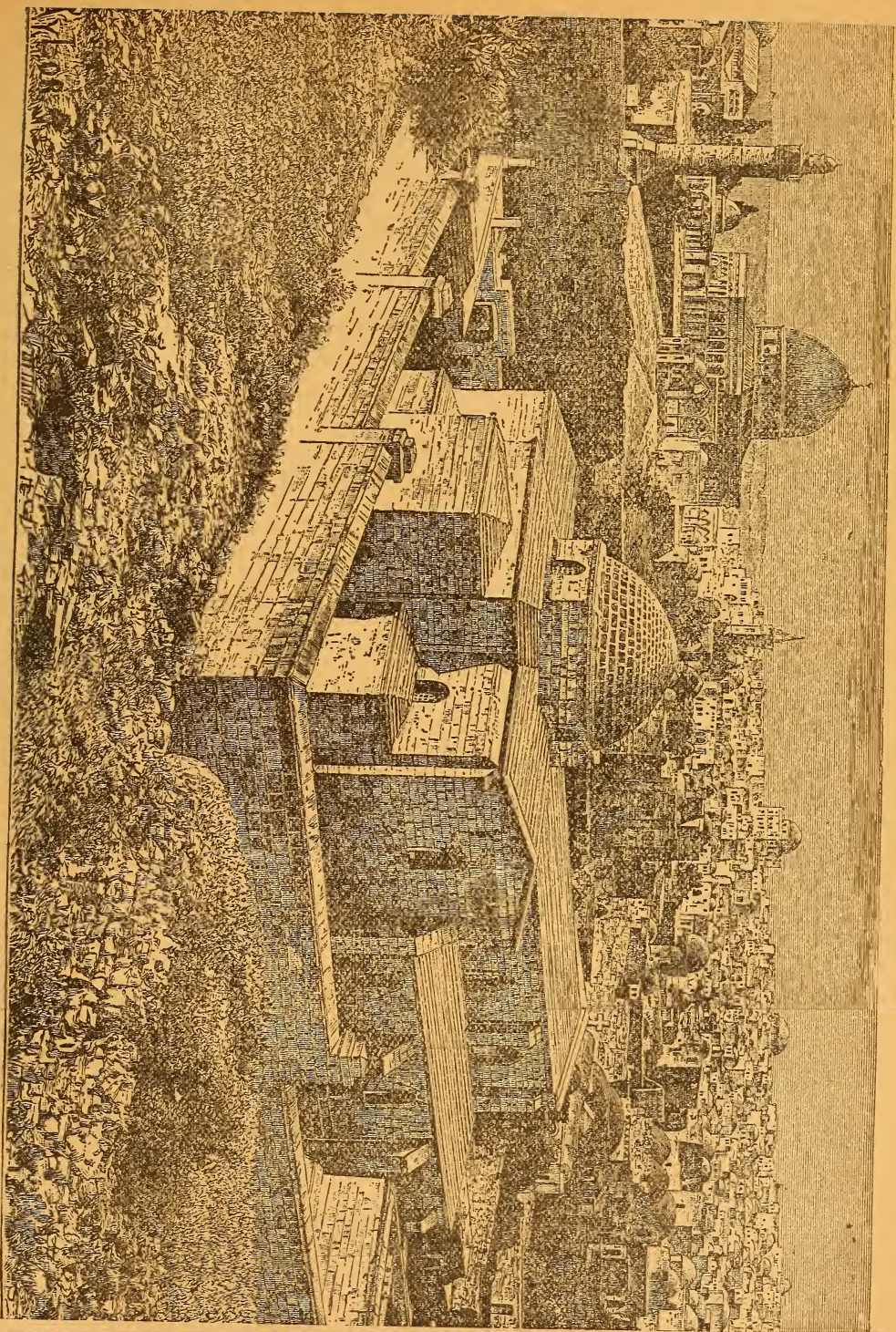
"Lazarus, come forth."

And the man who had been dead, came forth, wrapped in his grave clothes, with a napkin bound around his face. And Jesus said:

“Loose him and let him go.”

How grateful these sisters must have been, to have their dear brother restored. Many Jews believed on Jesus from that hour. But some went at once to the high priests and told of this miraculous thing.

And they gathered to themselves the Scribes and plotted to know what they should do with a man who had such power as that. For they thought ere long He would make all men believe on Him, and they would lose their place and nation.



VIEW INSIDE THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE PRODIGAL SON.

A great feast was made by a very wealthy Pharisee, and Jesus was asked to share it with his other guests.

This rich man made a pretence of being hospitable to Jesus, so that he might have a better chance to entrap Him, and give Him over to those who were seeking His life.

They were ever hoping to find Him guilty of some great sin, so they could arrest Him. But His life was blameless and pure. All His acts were acts of kindness, and all His words were words of love.

He told them many beautiful stories at this feast.

One was about a very good man who had two sons. One son was obedient and industrious, the other was restless, and hated work.

One day the younger son asked his father to give him his portion of the goods, and let him go away into the world, and enjoy himself.

His father did not care for the possessions, but he did not want his son to leave home.

He yielded, however, to the boy's wishes, and gave him his share, and the son gathered everything together, and started out to see the world. He left his home, full of glee, but how the father's heart ached at parting with him!

Soon the money and goods were all gone. He had wasted them in bad company, and he was poor and friendless now. Besides, there was a famine in the land, and he did not know how to work.



THE PRODIGAL SON LEAVING HOME.

He feared he should starve soon. He hired himself to a man to take care of his swine. He was now hungry so often that he ate the coarse food which was meant for the pigs.

Often he murmured at his foolishness at leaving home. How he wished he could see his father, and sit at his table once more, where there was plenty and to spare.

Thinking of these things, he resolved to go at once to that father, and confess his sin, and ask to be forgiven.

“And he arose, and came to his father, and when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”

And then this most forgiving father ordered a feast to show his gladness at the return of his son.



"HE RAN AND FELL ON HIS NECK, AND KISSED HIM."

"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

How precious were that father's pardon and welcome. And so our dear Father in heaven is ever ready to say to us "Come!" when we turn from our sins and selfishness. The welcome home is ever ready for us.

CHAPTER XVII.

BLIND BARTIMEUS BEGGING AT THE GATE.

There was a secluded little town called Ephraim, near the wilderness. Here He rested for a few weeks. The time had come when He must go up to Jerusalem.

He talked daily to His beloved disciples, preparing them for the sad parting. But ever He promised them He should rise on the third day.

They came near a town called Jericho. A man sat in the sun begging. He was blind, but when he heard the people who were following Jesus going by, he asked what was happening. Some one answered him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

He called out: "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus called the man to His side. And when they led him thither, He asked Bartimeus what he wished.

He answered: "Lord, give me my sight."

And at once the Saviour rewarded his faith, and gave him his sight. The man who was blind before, now saw Jesus, and followed Him, praising and glorifying His name.

And all the people rejoiced.

Ever the Saviour exhorted His followers to be humble and child-like. Long ago He had called the little ones about Him, and when the disciples would have sent them away lest they annoyed their Lord, He had bade them be like these children.

He had said to them: "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."



HEALING THE BLIND BARTIMEUS.

In Jericho there lived a very bad man named Zacchæus. This man was a publican, or tax-gatherer. He loved money dearly, and used every means in his power to obtain it, so that he might hoard it up and become very rich.

But in spite of his great wealth he had no influence or friends.

His heart was sordid and narrow, and no one liked him.

He was very anxious to see this great Prophet who was coming by, but as he was a very short man he could not look over the heads of the crowd. So he climbed into a sycamore tree, and thus he could see this wonderful teacher, of whom every one was talking.



"SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME."

He thought he was well hidden from sight. Judge of his surprise when he heard a voice calling to him:

"Come down quickly, for to-day I must stay at your house!"

The great Prophet was speaking, and to him who was so



ZACCHÆUS IN THE TREE.

great a sinner What did it mean? But he came down the tree as quickly as possible, and ran to Jesus and told Him He was welcome to his home.

So our Saviour went to the publican's house, and the people standing around were vexed.

“He has gone,” they said, “to be the guest of a sinner.”

The condescension which Jesus showed in inviting Himself to the house of a man who was so very wicked as was this one, set Zacchæus to thinking of his evil acts, and he determined to make amends. So he rose up from the table, and said:

“Lord, I will give half I own to the poor. And if I have robbed any man by overcharging him, I will restore fourfold.”

How rejoiced our Lord was to hear him say that. He knew that it was the honest outpouring of a repentant man, and He said:

“This day has salvation come to this house.”

So again were those words of the Saviour fulfilled: “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

CHAPTER XVIII.

MARY REPROVED BY THE TRAITOR JUDAS.

The days were drawing near of which Jesus had warned them. He told His disciples that many would come professing to be Christ. Plagues and famines and earthquakes would come upon the earth. Nations would go to war; and brothers would fall out with each other.

“Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord may come.”

He told them the kingdom of heaven was like the ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were prepared to meet him, for they trimmed their lamps, and saw that they were full of oil.



THE TEN VIRGINS.

The other five had forgotten to attend to their lamps, and they were empty.

While they waited, they all fell asleep, but at the midnight hour a loud cry was heard:

“Behold, the bridegroom cometh!”

They sprang to their feet, and the wise ones looked carefully after their lamps, but the others cried out that they had no oil, and begged some of their sisters. But they refused, and told them to buy for themselves. While they were away on this errand, the bridegroom came, and all who were ready went in to the feast.

When the five careless virgins came back, they found the door locked. In despair they called, “Lord, Lord, open the door.”

Back came the terrible answer: “I know you not!”

This parable is a warning lest we neglect to prepare for death. If we live a good and holy life, our lamps will be found brightly burning when the Son of Man cometh to call us to the marriage feast.

But if we do not fill our days here with good deeds, and keep our hearts filled with a clear and steadfast flame, we shall surely hear those terrible words spoken: “I know you not!”

Will you not remember this lesson, and then when the hour of death comes, you will hear the glad welcome of “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

It was now six days before the Feast of the Passover, and Jesus went to the house of Simon the leper, where a feast was made for Him. But Martha waited upon the table. Simon



MARY ANOINTING CHRIST WITH PRECIOUS OINTMENT.

was very rich, and his house was very large, and a great many people sat down at the table.

And while they ate, Mary, who loved her dear Lord, took an alabaster box of very costly ointment and anointed His feet with it, and wiped them with her hair. And the odor was so fragrant that it filled the whole house.

Judas, one of the Twelve, pretended to be very angry at what he considered an extravagance, and he asked why the ointment was not sold, and the money given to the poor?

Judas did not care at all for the poor, but he carried the bag into which all the disciples put the money they had, and he thought if this beautiful ointment was sold it would bring a good deal of money, and he would have a chance to steal some, for that was what he often did. You see this disciple was a thief as well as a traitor.

But Jesus said unto him: "Let her alone. She has kept this ointment against the day of my burying. The poor ye have with ye always. But me ye have not always."

It is true that the poor are always with us. In one of the books of the Old Testament we are told that "The poor shall never cease out of the land." And we are there commanded to "open wide our hand unto our brother, to the poor, and to the needy."

So many people went to see Jesus after He had raised Lazarus from the dead, and believed on Him, that the chief priests consulted together as to how they could put Him to death quickly, and they even wanted to kill Lazarus, because it was through him that the people followed Jesus.

Judas, grown more covetous, suddenly reasoned to himself:

“I will help them take Jesus. Perhaps they will pay me a large sum.” What a terrible thought. Did he try to conquer it? No. He hurried up to Jerusalem and made a bargain at once that he would deliver the Saviour to them for thirty pieces of silver—about twenty dollars.

And they paid him the money, and from that hour he watched for a chance to give his Master over to His foes.

CHAPTER XIX.

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM IN TRIUMPH.

The Pharisees and Scribes were gathering wrath against Jesus, and hated Him more bitterly each day. They watched ceaselessly for a chance to find Him guilty of some act which would be sufficient to doom Him to death.

Still He taught and healed, and did good works. And now they were near Jerusalem, and he told his disciples to go into



TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

a village and they would find a colt tied near a door, on whose back never man had sat. He told them to bring it to Him.

They found the colt, and began to unloose him, and when some who were standing near, asked them why they untied the animal, they answered that the Lord had need of him. So they made no further objection.



PALMS BORNE BY THE CHILDREN.

When they brought the colt to Jesus, they laid their garments upon its back, and placed Him thereon. And the people followed Him, and spread green palms and grasses over the way for Him to pass over, while they cut down the branches from the palm trees and bore them aloft, women and men and even the little children, as they pressed on in the Saviour's path, making the air ring with their songs of praise: "Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel, that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Thus in triumph our Lord rode into Jerusalem, and the Pharisees were torn with jealousy. "For," they said, "the world is gone after Him."

How soon these wicked men would have their way! But the disciples, who could not believe that their Master was to suffer a shameful death, were happy to see this honor paid to Him, but He sadly talked to them of the days of sorrow that were coming, and foretold how that proud city would be destroyed.

He wept as He foretold the destruction of the Temple. He knew that Jerusalem would be robbed of its beauty. He knew not one stone would be left upon another. He loved Jerusalem, and would have gathered His children to Him, as a hen broodeth her chickens. But they turned deaf ears to Him. They heeded not His warnings, nor would they listen to His pleadings.

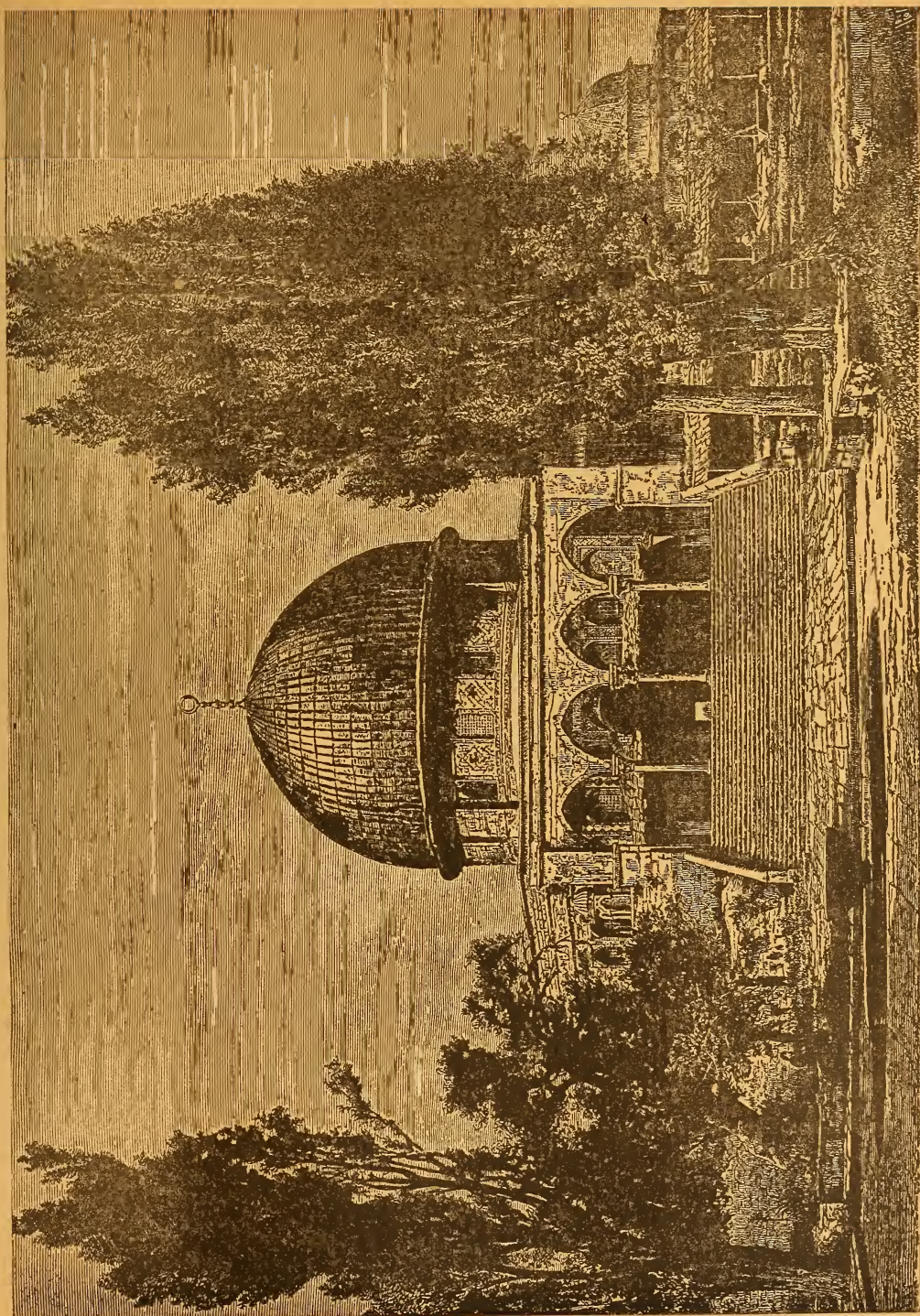
And even as He prophesied, so has it come to pass. Jerusalem is but a shadow of its former self. Devastated and lonely it sits, while its enemies, of another faith, have planted a sign of their power and authority in its proud walls—the Mosque



FORETELLING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE.

of Omar. In 637 of the Christian era, Jerusalem was captured by Mohammedan Arabs, under Kalif Omar.

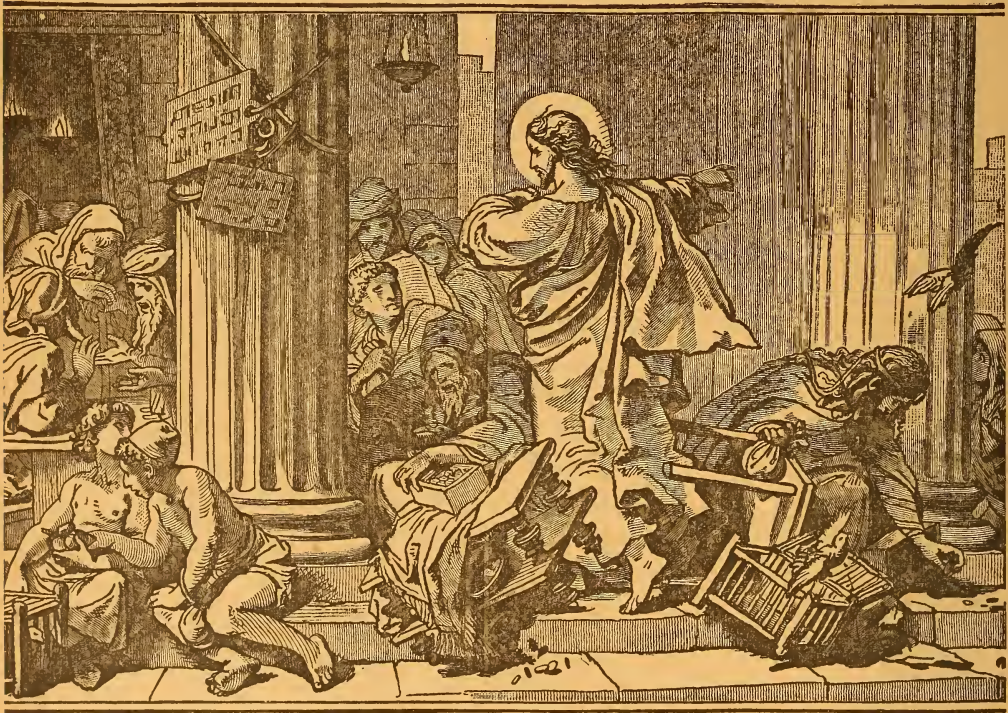
He inquired at once for the "Sakhara" or sacred rock which he claimed was there, and found it covered with all kinds of vile things which, I am sorry to say, the Christians had thrown there to show their dislike of the Jews. Here Kalif Omar erected a dome, which his successor, Abd-el-Melik removed, A. D. 688, and built the splendid mosque which all travelers to that far Eastern land have seen. It has eight elegant gates carved in Saracenic style.



MOSQUE OF OMAR.

Thus has the pride of the "Holy City" been humbled, and it has been shorn of its beauty.

When Christ entered Jerusalem, He went into the temple, and His heart was again disturbed by the clamor of the oxen and the cooing of the doves, and the voices of the money changers who disturbed those who went there to pray and offer up sacrifices. And once more, as He had done three years



DRIVING OUT MONEY LENDERS.

before, He cast them forth, and upset their tables, as He exclaimed in righteous anger:

"My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

"And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them."

Think, dear children, of His wondrous love. Nowhere can you find a passage where our blessed Lord turned away the sick or the miserable, no matter how great their sins. Always the grand assurance comes: "He healed them."

Can you not love a being so gentle, so forgiving, and yet whose power is so vast that He can do as He wills with all of us? And yet His will is to receive all who come to Him, with open arms of love. So serve Him and love Him, dear children, all the days of your life.

Remember, when the lawyer, who tried to make our Lord say a foolish thing, asked Him: "Master, which is the greatest commandment?" Jesus answered:

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

"This is the first and great commandment.

"And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Will you think of this, and remember what your heavenly Father asks of you?



PLOWING IN EASTERN LANDS.

CHAPTER XX.

PREPARING A PLACE FOR THE LAST SUPPER.

The Feast of the Passover was near at hand, and the Saviour wished to celebrate it with his beloved disciples. But how could this be? If He went openly into the city, his enemies were ready to seize Him. Judas had been to the Pharisees and offered to betray Him to them for thirty miserable pieces of silver.

The Saviour of the world had no place to hold that supper which alas, was to be the last He would ever partake of with those who loved Him so.

He told them, when they asked Him where they should prepare it, to go into the city, and they would see a man carrying a pitcher of water, and they must follow him.

And when they reached the house he entered, they must follow him closely, and go to the good man of the house and ask him where the guest-chamber was, which they were to prepare for the Master, that He might eat the passover with His disciples.

This man would show them a large upper chamber, which had no furniture in it save a long table and benches.

They did just as He told them to, and when they came to the house they greeted the master, and he led them to the room, which they prepared for the supper which was to be held at eventide.

And as they were eating, He said:

“Verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.”



"VERILY I SAY UNTO YE, THAT ONE OF YE WILL BETRAY ME."

While He sat at supper, Jesus took bread and blessed it and brake, giving it to His disciples, saying:

"Take, eat, this is my body."

And He took the cup, and blessing it, He gave it to them also, and they drank thereof.

He said to them:

"This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

They all sang a hymn, and went out into the Mount of Olives.

The disciples, even at this solemn hour, when Jesus was with them for the last time before He was crucified, were so full of pride and self-love that they contended amongst themselves as to who should be the greatest.

Jesus rose from the table when the repast was ended, and girding Himself with a towel, He poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet. This was an office that was always performed by servants.

They were amazed, and protested against it. But when He came to Peter, that plain-speaking man refused to let his Master honor him so, and he said:

"Lord, thou shalt never wash my feet."

And Jesus answered: "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."

Then Peter, dreading lest his beloved Master should cast him off, said earnestly:

"Lord, not my feet only, but my hands and my head."

He wanted to be made clean, body and soul, that he might be pleasing in the sight of God.

When Christ had set them this example of humility He told them that what He had done for them, they should do for each other.

Then seating Himself again, He said to them, that one of those who sat at the table would betray Him.

The disciples were shocked. Each felt that he was innocent of such treachery, and they looked from one to the other, and no one knew who was meant.

But John, the beloved disciple, spoke in low tones to the Saviour, on whose bosom he leaned, and asked Him:

"Lord, who is it?"

Jesus took a sop (a small piece of bread) and answered:

"He it is to whom I shall give a sop when I shall have dipped it."

Thus saying, He dipped the bread and passed it to Judas Iscariot.

Now the spirit of evil came into Judas with tenfold power, and when Jesus, who knew the hour had come for the dreadful deed, said to him: "That thou doest, do quickly," Judas hastened out and went straight to the Pharisees and chief



"HE IT IS TO WHOM I SHALL GIVE A SOP."

priests, and demanded that they send a band of soldiers with him to take Jesus.

After he had gone away on this cruel errand, Jesus talked lovingly to the rest of the Twelve, and bade them love each other, and be ready to glorify God. And He gave them a new commandment:

“That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

Oh, wondrous love, that led Him to lay down that precious life, that through Him all men might be saved.

When He told them that but a little while He should be with them, and that whither He went they could not follow Him at that time, Peter again spoke up quite earnestly:

“Lord, why cannot I follow Thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.”

Jesus knew that Peter meant it, and He knew, too, the weakness of human nature, and He said to him sadly:

“Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily I say unto thee, the cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.”

And then Jesus lifted up His eyes to Heaven, and prayed for all His disciples, that they would be guarded and cared for, and made strong to do the work for which He had fitted them. And He prayed that they might be with Him when they should be taken out of the world.

Then that band of sad and loving men joined their honored Master in a hymn, which rang out upon the clear air in that plain old room in Jerusalem so many hundreds of years ago. And when its echoes died away, they went up into the Mount of Olives to a garden or grove, a retired spot of about half an acre, near

the brook of Kedron. This garden was called Gethsemane, and while Jerusalem could be seen from its paths, yet it was very quiet and still there, and was a favorite place with our blessed Lord, who often went there to pray.

His disciples followed Him to this garden with heavy hearts,



"HE FELL ON HIS FACE."



CHRIST'S AGONY IN THE GARDEN.
123

and He bade them rest, while He went a little ways off, to ask help and comfort of His heavenly Father. Bidding Peter, James and John to go with Him, He fell on His face and prayed to God that if it were His will the cup of pain and sorrow which He was to drink might be taken away. But He prayed also, "Not my will, but thine be done."



THE ARREST OF JESUS.

While He prayed, His anguish was so great, that the great drops of sweat came out upon His forehead, and fell to the ground, like drops of blood.

And an angel came to His side, and gave Him strength.

On His returning to Peter and the two others, He found them sleeping. He sorrowfully asked them if they could not watch with Him one hour?

Twice after that He found them sleeping, and the last time He bade them sleep on and take their rest.

Even as He spoke a crowd of evil-looking men, armed with staves and swords, and carrying torches which flared angrily upon their faces, came rushing into the garden which a few moments before had been so peaceful.

Judas was with this rabble, and he went to the Saviour's side, and said: "Master master!" and kissed Him.



A. C. C. X. E.

E. V. C.

JUDAS' KISS.

And Jesus, standing there, asked with quiet scorn:

“Are ye come out as against a thief, with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold upon me.”

Then, shame to relate it, but all those disciples whom He loved so, and had taught and comforted, fled in terror, lest they, too, were to be seized by the soldiers.

Only an hour before, Peter had declared he would lay down his life for Him. Now He deserted Him in His hour of bitter woe!



AN EASTERN NOONDAY REST.

CHAPTER XXI.

PETER DENIES HIS MASTER.

Now in the morning, these wicked soldiers carried their meek victim to Pilate to be condemned. All night they had tormented and mocked Him, but He, who could have conquered them with a word, bore it patiently, because it was His Father's will and plan that He should suffer for our sins.

When Peter fled from his Master the night before, his



CHRIST BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST.

conscience began to smite him. He remembered all the love that Jesus had shown him, and his own ingratitude, and he



PETER DENIES HIS MASTER.

also had a longing to know where Jesus had been carried. So he followed the crowd to the house of the high priest where

they had borne the Saviour, and he entered the hall and stood there, warming himself, for it was cold.

The high priest was questioning the Saviour when Peter went in, and when He answered gently that He ever taught openly and that those who had listened to Him could tell what He had said, an officer who stood near, struck Jesus violently with the palm of his hand, demanding to know why He made such an answer to the high priest.

Peter stood near and never uttered a word in behalf of his dear Master. A maid servant who saw Peter, knew him, and accused him of being with Jesus in the garden.

He said: "I know him not."

Again, a few minutes later, another servant asked him if he was not one of the disciples, and he again told a wicked falsehood. He said, "I am not!"

A servant of the high priest said to him, "Did I not see thee in the garden with Him?"

Peter said boldly—"Thou didst not!" And at that moment the cock crew loudly.

Jesus turned and gave Peter a look so full of reproach and sorrow, that in a moment his heart grew penitent. What, had he, who professed to love his Master so entirely, been cowardly and untruthful?

His conscience awoke, and he rushed from the house, and going out into the darkness, he fell on his knees and wept bitterly.

CHAPTER XXII.

JESUS BEFORE PILATE.

In the morning they took Jesus to Pilate. It was near the Feast of the Passover, and Pilate could not partake of this feast if he entered the Hall of Judgment, as He would be defiled, so he went out, this great ruler, to the people, and asked them what they would have.

Pilate had looked upon the pure and serene face of Jesus, and he knew in his heart He had done no wrong. He had questioned Him closely, and all His replies were such as a just and holy man would give. This great ruler could not endure the thought of giving up this sinless being to the rabble, and he planned a way to avoid it.

The chief priests were loudest in their accusations. But as Pilate could find no wrong in Him, and he did not like to condemn an innocent man to death, he offered to release Jesus. It was the custom to set a prisoner free at this feast after scourging him, and the one who was to have been pardoned at this particular time was a very wicked man named Barabbas. Pilate wished to let Jesus go in his place, and he told the rabble so, but they would not hear to it. They called for Barabbas, although he was a thief and a murderer; they preferred to have this criminal liberated, rather than our beloved Lord, for they hated Jesus, whom they were determined should die.

Pilate wished to be rid of the blame of allowing Jesus to die, and as soon as he found He was a Galileean, he sent Him to Herod to be adjudged.



PILATE EXAMINES JESUS PRIVATELY.

After Herod had questioned Him he, too, failed to find any sin in Him, and he returned Him to Pilate, after insulting Him by putting a gorgeous robe upon Him, as if he believed Him to be an earthly king.

Pilate was more troubled than ever, but he said to himself,

"I will have Him scourged, and give Him liberty. That surely will satisfy the rabble."

So he ordered Him scourged, which was a dreadful punish-



THE SCOURGING OF CHRIST.

ment. But he little knew the fierce rage that burned in their hearts.

When he brought Jesus out to them, the soldiers and people led Him away, and called together the whole band.

And they mocked Him, and struck Him, and spit upon Him, and bending their knees, they pretended to worship Him. They also put a robe of purple upon Him, and platted a crown of thorns, and placed it upon His head, saluting Him thus: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Then He was led forth for the mob to see. They had become weary of tormenting Him, and had placed His own clothes upon Him again.



JESUS CROWNED WITH THORNS.

As He stood there, no thought of all He had done for the lame, the blind, the sin-sick, went forth from that crowd.

Pilate said, as He stood there in the sunlight, its rays lighting up His beauteous face: "Behold the man!"



ECCE HOMO.

And a mad cry of hate went up from their throats, of "Crucify Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said: "Take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him!"

And they led Him away, to be crucified.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE REMORSE OF JUDAS.

But what became of Judas? The shameful deed had been accomplished. He had helped bring that being to a disgraceful death, who had once been his loving friend and teacher.

Do you think he was happy? Did the possession of the money bring him peace of mind?

Alas, remorse seized upon him. He repented bitterly of what he had done. Oh, that he might undo his work! Too late, and now evermore must his conscience sting him, for no repentance could ever bring the gentle Jesus to life again.

He had sold himself to Satan, and was now in the power of one who took delight in seeing the despair of those who had given themselves to him.

But at least he would not keep the money. It was the price of a life, and was hideous to him. He could not keep it. He would go to those priests and confess his falsehood. He would beg them to set Jesus free, ere it was too late.

How little he knew those wolves in human guise! They knew that Jesus was innocent, even more than he did, but they had Him in their power, and would never release Him now.

He went and told them that Jesus was innocent. He begged them to spare Him. They listened to him with sneers and contempt. They despised Judas for a traitor, but he had done them a service, and they had paid him his price. That was all they wished of him, and the matter was ended.

Dashing the silver pieces down upon the floor of the temple,

he rushed out, and in the loneliness of a cave near, he thought of his terrible crime, and resolved to put an end to his life. And at last, no longer able to bear his own thoughts, he pro-



JUDAS REPENTANT,

cured a rope, and going to a lonely field, he found a tree, and climbing into it, he threw one end of the rope around a branch

and the other end about his neck, and springing down, he choked to death.

Thus perished the traitor. Too late now to ask God's pardon. He had gone where it could no longer reach him—to the place prepared for all who sin past pardon.

And the priests dared not put the money Judas had returned to them into the treasury, because it was the "price of blood."

So they took the coins and bought a piece of ground near Jerusalem, and devoted it to burying unknown people, paupers and criminals.

And they named it the "Field of Blood." But to this day it is called "The Potter's Field."

CHAPTER XXIV.

CALVARY.

When they led Jesus away to the place of execution, Calvary, just beyond the city walls, He was faint and weary, worn with grief and watching, and as He staggered under the weight of the cross, they compelled a strong man who had come in from the country, Simon, the Cyrenian, to carry it for Him.

They led Him away to a place called Golgotha, and here



ON THE ROAD TO CALVARY.

they nailed the blessed Lord upon the cross, and left Him to die.

Pilate knew He had done no sin, and yet he permitted this awful wickedness to be done. He wrote an inscription for the cross, and when the priests asked him to change it, he refused. It was the custom to place the name of the criminal upon the cross on which he was executed, together with his crime. And Pilate's testimony to His innocence was thus made plain to all who saw it, for he had it inscribed in three tongues—Hebrew, Greek and Latin, and this is what it said:



CHRIST'S FAITHFUL FRIENDS FROM GALILEE.

with tender love, and then His eyes resting on John, He said: "Woman, behold thy son!" and to John: "Behold thy mother!"

And John gladly accepted the trust, and as Mary gave the dying Jesus a last look of farewell, he led her away from the foot of the cross, to his own home.

Three hours the Saviour hung on the cross. His throat was parched, and one of the soldiers pitying Him, filled a sponge with vinegar and passed it up to Him, that He might quench His thirst. But others among the soldiers said: "Let Him be. Let us see if Elias will come and take Him down."

The Saviour's agony was terrible. He murmured in His sufferings: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

This was at the ninth hour.

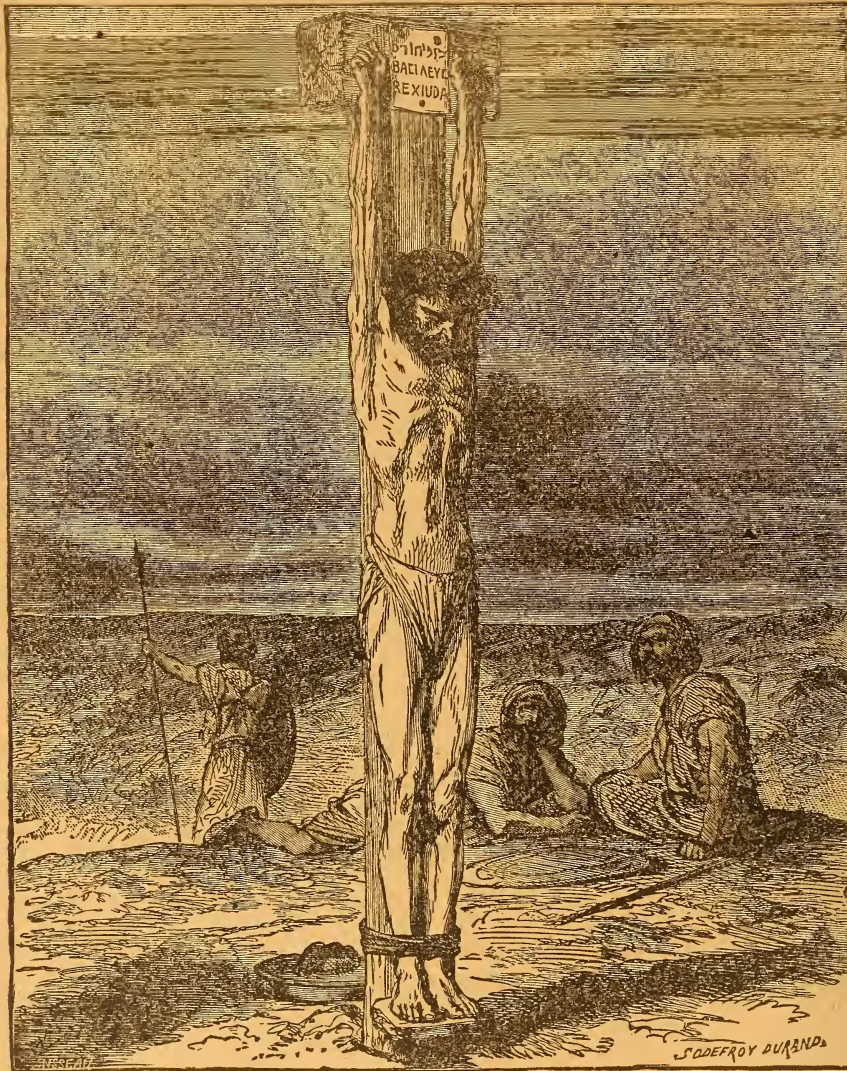
The people were passing by in great crowds and mocking Him, bidding Him come down from the cross, and save himself.

Two thieves were crucified with Him, one on the left, the other on the right. And at the sixth hour a dense blackness settled over the scene, so that all who saw it were terrified. And it lasted three hours.

When Jesus had tasted of the vinegar He cried out with a loud voice: "It is finished!" And then He died.

At that instant the earth shook as with an earthquake, and the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, while the people rushed in all directions, wild with terror. The centurion who had been set to watch Him, cried out with an earnest voice:

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"



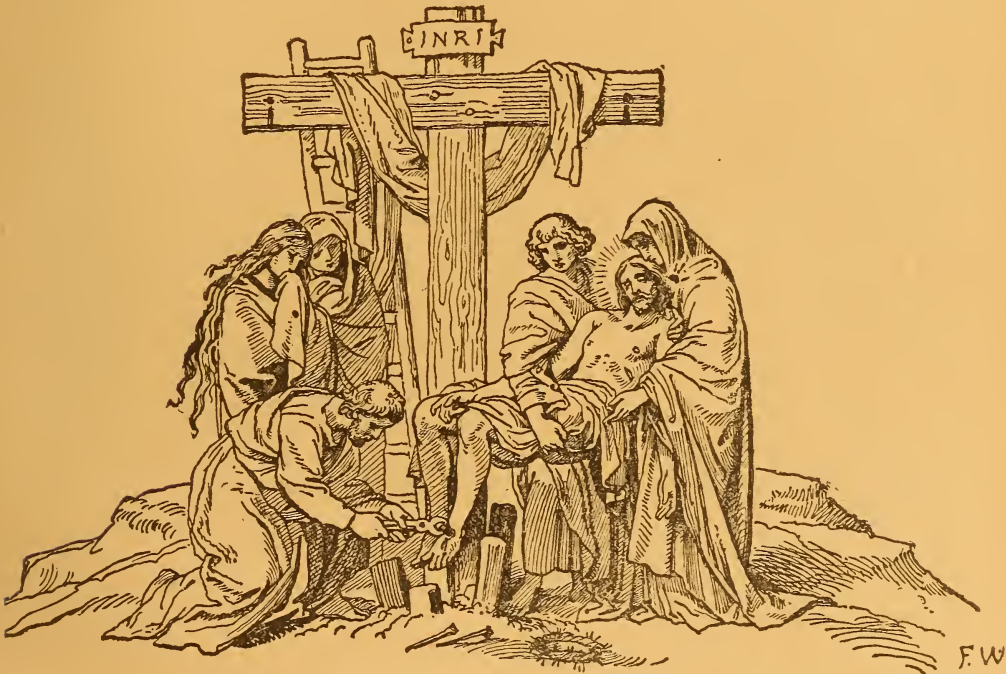
"IT IS FINISHED."

The next day was the Sabbath, and the Jews did not wish to have Jesus and the two thieves left hanging upon the crosses that day, so they besought Pilate to have them taken down. It was usual for them to break the limbs of those who were crucified, so that they might die quicker. The thieves were still

living, so they hastened their deaths in this manner, but the Saviour was quite dead, as the soldiers found; but one of them pierced His side with a spear, and blood and water poured forth. Thus was the Scriptures fulfilled, wherein it was written:

“A bone of Him shall not be broken.”

A rich man named Joseph of Arimathea, who had secretly been a disciple of Jesus, came to Pilate and begged that he



DESCENT FROM THE CROSS.

might have His body, and the ruler willingly consented. So he took away His precious body, and Nicodemus came to his house, and brought a large quantity of myrrh and aloes, nearly a hundred pound weight, with which to embalm Him. And they bore Jesus to a cave or a tomb which he had made in his own garden, and where no man had yet laid.

With loving hands and sorrowful hearts they wrapped Him in fine linen and carried Him to this tomb.

Early the next morning, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome, and Mary Magdalene went to the sepulcher with sweet spices with which to anoint their Lord and Master. And they



BURIAL OF CHRIST.

saw that the stone was rolled away, and on entering the tomb they found that it was empty. Their Master had gone! But two angels stood there in shining garments, and they comforted them in this manner:

“Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen. Remember how He spake unto you when He was in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

So the women went away glad, and told the eleven and all the rest.

Peter and John could not believe so wondrous a tale, and they ran quickly to the sepulcher, and though John stooped down and looked in, and saw the grave clothes there in a corner, he went not in. But Peter entered, and seeing that Jesus was no longer there, he, too, believed, and they went away to their own homes.

Mary Magdalene, however, could not understand as yet, and she stood outside the tomb, weeping bitterly. She thought that the Jews had stolen the body of her beloved Jesus who had done so much for her; and she, too, looked in, and saw two angels in white, one sitting at the head, and one at the feet, where Jesus had lain. And they asked her why she wept.

She was frightened, at being spoken to, but she answered: “Because they have taken my Lord away, and I know not where they have laid Him.”

She turned away, still weeping bitterly, when she saw a form standing near, who asked her why she wept. Now Mary was blinded by her tears, and she supposed it was the gardener who had spoken, and she begged him to tell her if he had taken away her Saviour’s body and where he had laid it.

Jesus spoke the one word, “Mary.”



CHRIST APPEARS TO MARY.

She turned, and saw who had called her name, and with loving adoration she sprang toward Him, crying:

“Master!”

But He gently drew His garments away, saying: “Touch me not. I am not yet ascended to my Father. But go to



TEN OF THE DISCIPLES SAT WITH DOORS LOCKED.

my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and to your God.”

That same evening, as ten of the disciples sat at supper with the doors locked, for they feared the Jews' anger, Jesus ap-

peared in their midst, and said unto them: "Peace be unto you."

He showed them His hands and side. How happy they were to see their dear Lord once more.

Thomas, one of the eleven, was not there, and when the other disciples told him of the blessed privilege they had enjoyed, he would not believe them. He was like many we see, dear children, who cannot believe by faith. They do not know what a beautiful thing it is to trust completely, but even such as they will be satisfied, if they search the Scriptures thoroughly.



GOING TO EMMAUS.

Two men journeying to Emmaus, were walking along the dusty road that day, when they met a stranger. These men belonged to the Seventy whom Christ had sent forth to heal.

As they talked of the sad events that had taken place this stranger asked them why they were sorrowful. And they told him all about Jesus, his death and burial, and how disappointed they were, for they thought He was the Messiah.

He told them they did not understand the Scriptures, and He talked to them and explained so clearly that they were delighted, and they asked Him to abide with them for the night.

When the supper was prepared, they gave Him the seat of honor. And He blessed the bread, and broke it.



DOUBTING THOMAS.

Their eyes were opened at once. They knew Him—He was their dear Master!

And when they would have spoken further, He vanished from their sight.

Eight days later they were all together again, Thomas with the rest; the doors were closed, when suddenly Jesus again stood among them, and said:

“Peace be unto you.”

And He bade Thomas reach forth his hand, and thrust it into His side, and be not faithless, but believing.

Thomas could no longer doubt, but he exclaimed earnestly:
“My Lord and my God.”

CHAPTER XXV.

CHRIST APPEARS AGAIN.

Once more Christ showed Himself to His disciples, at the Sea of Tiberias.

They were fishing, but had been out all night with no success. As the morning broke, and they were tired and weary, they saw a man standing upon the shore, who called to them in kind tones:

"Children, have you any fish?" And they said sadly, "No, we have caught none."

Then He said, "Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find plenty." They obeyed, and the net became so full they could not draw it up.

John knew at once whose care was over them, and he said joyfully:

"It is the Lord!"

Peter was so rejoiced that he threw himself into the sea to swim to shore. He could not wait for the overloaded boat to reach there. And when the boat touched the land they saw a fire of coals, and fish and bread laid thereon.

And, better still, they found Jesus there. He invited them to dine. Then after the meal was over, He said to Peter: "Lovest thou me?"

Peter replied fervently: "Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee."

Twice more he asked Peter if he loved Him, and that disciple was much grieved, for he thought his Lord did not believe him.

Each time he declared that he did, and then Jesus said to him: "Feed my sheep." He wished Peter to devote himself to the great work which He had been carrying on—healing sinners, and bringing them to repentance.

Three times Peter denied his Master on that terrible night, when he had declared he knew Him not, and Jesus wished to remind him of that falsehood. So three times He led him to declare that he loved Him. Peter never faltered again. He was one of the most earnest among those whom the Saviour left to do His will.

Many great miracles he was allowed to perform, through God's power, and his epistles are full of thanks for the grace given to him.

The time was growing very short when Jesus would no more be with them. Forty days only He dwelt among them after He rose from the dead, but how much He taught them in that time. Ever He was the same loving Saviour that He had been, "is now, and ever will be."

He taught them how to understand the Scriptures, and that they must teach all men that they must repent of their sins, and that pardon would be granted them through His precious name. He told them they were witnesses of all He had done, and they must speak of those things to all people.

He had given His disciples, before His death, a promise, and now He was ready to redeem it. It was, that He would appear to them after He had risen from the dead, on a mountain, where many could see and recognize Him.

This was joyful news, and hundreds flocked to that spot, anxious, so anxious to once more see the dear Lord who had

been crucified by his enemies, but had risen triumphant.

Men, women, and even little children hurried up that steep mountain side. And there they saw Him! In His own dear form He stood before them, and spoke in such loud, clear tones that every one of that vast number heard Him:

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”

‘Remember that, my dear children—“all power is given unto Jesus.” Through Him alone can you find pardon and peace.

And He said also: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them as I have done, and teach them as I have taught you. .

“For lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

This He said to the disciples, who were to go out upon missions to all mankind, to be the bearers of good tidings.

He told them to begin at Jerusalem, that city which He had loved so tenderly, but whose people had mocked and despised Him, and tormented Him ere they crucified Him.

Now He took His last walk with those disciples who had dwelt with Him so long. He led them out as far as Bethany, that beautiful little town on the Mount of Olives. And as He walked He told them what they must do. They must begin their preaching at Jerusalem, but they were to spread the Gospel everywhere.

On and on they walked, past the places where He had been so often, out to a more lonely spot upon the hillside.

The eventful moment had come. He was about to leave them alone, to do His work, and lifting up His pierced hands,

which bore the cruel marks of the nails, He solemnly blessed them.

A cloud came down and overshadowed them. He was caught up into this cloud, and surrounded by myriads of shining angels, He was hidden from their sight.

Two angels, with garments white as snow, stood near them, as they eagerly strained their eyes to catch a last glimpse of Jesus. They spoke thus to them:

“Why do you stand gazing up into heaven? Jesus, who is taken up from you, will come again some day in the same manner.”

Then they went back to Jerusalem, praising God, happy and content. They had been left without their Master's daily companionship, but He had poured out His holy spirit upon them, and had commanded them to do a great work. How well they obeyed Him, we shall tell you now.

CHAPTER XXVI.

CHOOSING A NEW APOSTLE—DAY OF PENTECOST.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, and had gone away from those who had been with Him every day, and from the people, some of whom had followed Him to listen and believe, while others sneered and blasphemed, the disciples returned to Jerusalem to watch and pray, and Peter, who was the eldest, stood up and said that as Judas was no longer among them, the sayings of Scripture must be fulfilled—his habitation must be desolate, and his place as a minister another must take.

So they prayed for help to know whom to choose. They had thought of two, Joseph and Matthias.

When they had prayed, they cast lots, and the choice fell upon Matthias, so he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The Day of Pentecost had come. This was one of the three great feast days among the Jews, and fell on the fiftieth day after the Feast of the Passover.

On that day, just ten after the ascension of Christ, the apostles were all gathered together at one place, when on that crowd of women, apostles, and men gathered there to the number of 120, “suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.”

Was this not a wonderful thing, and did it not show that God had kept His word, and sent His Holy Spirit upon them?



DAY OF PENTECOST.

The strangest part of this was, that though the apostles were Galileans, they proclaimed the glory of God, and His wonderful power in every language, so that every man who heard them speak, listened to his own tongue. This was called "the gift of tongues," and Peter, who heard the people murmuring as usual, some admiring, and others making fun, spoke to them, and told them that the apostles spoke by the power of the Holy Spirit.

He told them that the Jesus of Nazareth whom they had wickedly slain, was raised from the dead, and sat on His throne in heaven, and that He had promised them He would pour out His Spirit upon them, and He had kept His promise that day.

He earnestly declared that the being whom they had all seen and despised, was the Lord and Saviour, who alone could save them.

The people began to grow alarmed. They knew they had been wicked and unbelieving, and their hearts were troubled. "What shall we do?" they asked Peter and the rest of the apostles.

"Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ," he answered.

They gladly heeded his advice. They repented truly, and in that solemn hour they cast away their sins and became as Jesus would have them, like little children.

Peter's earnest preaching added about 3,000 souls to the church, and they remained true to their promises to their heavenly Father.

CHAPTER XXVII.

PETER HEALS A LAME MAN.

Peter and John went up into the temple when the hour of prayer had come, and as they passed through a gate which was called Beautiful, a lame man sat there begging. He had been lame from his birth. As his eyes rested on the two apostles he asked them for help.

Peter bade him look at John and himself. The man thought they were going to give him some money. But Peter said solemnly:

“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have I give unto thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”

This man who had never walked without help before, leaped to his feet, and went into the temple praising God, while all the people marveled.

Was not this gift of strength and healing far more to be desired than mere gold or silver? The first act of this man was to praise and thank God. He gave the first fruits of his gratitude to his Father in heaven.

Those who saw him walk, were all amazed, and they ran after the man who had been lame, talking about his restoration and expressing their wonder.

Peter again reproached them with their hardness of heart in not accepting that Jesus whom they had been told so much about. He assured them that neither John nor he had worked this miracle, but the power had come through One whom they had crucified.

His words fell heavily on their ears, for they knew they were guilty of hardening their consciences. And many who heard his voice believed from that hour.

Bitter anger filled the souls of the rulers when they heard these things, and they had Peter and John seized and brought before them the next morning—for it was now eventide, and too late to examine and question them.

And when the apostles were set before Annas, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, they questioned them by what power or in whose name they had done that deed?

Peter was no longer the timid coward who denied his Master three times, but, full of zeal and courage, he replied boldly:

“Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you, whole.”

You must feel glad, children, to see he was no longer afraid to speak for his Master.

The rulers and chief priests could make no answer. They saw the man who had been healed standing there, and they knew that Peter and John had been disciples of Christ when He was on earth. So ordering them to go outside the council, they planned to frighten and threaten them, so that they would do no more miracles or teach the people any further. They called the two apostles in, and gave them commands to this effect.

They could not alarm Peter and John, for they were doing the Lord's work. Man's threats had no power over them. They both answered that they must speak what they saw and

heard. The priests threatened what they would do, but they let Peter and John go, for they could find nothing for which to punish them.

The two apostles went at once to the company of believers and told what had been said to them, and they rejoiced loudly, and prayed; and while they were praying, the place was



shaken violently and they were all filled with the Spirit, and spoke boldly the word of God.

They loved God with all their hearts, and determined to share all they had with each other. Those who had lands or houses sold them, and brought the money to the apostles, who gave to every man as he had need.

Peter was ever ready to speak of the great mercies which had been shown him; he would not be silenced, but was bold in speaking of Christ and His goodness. In the words of the Psalmist, he loved to invite the people to "come and talk of Christ."

CHAPTER XXVIII.

SAPPHIRA AND ANANIAS STRUCK DEAD.

Among these followers who were ready to give up everything they owned was a man named Ananias. He was covetous and selfish, and could not loose what he had accumulated, not even to the Lord. So he made a plan with his wife, Sapphira, that they should sell his land, but he would keep part of the money he got, and make Peter think he had given it all up. But Peter knew better; he could detect the fraud at once.

So he asked Ananias why he had let Satan put it into his heart to try to cheat the Lord. He told him that he had lied to his Maker who could not be deceived.

He spoke with such power and looked so angry, that Ananias was convicted at once, and he fell prostrate on the ground, at Peter's feet, and died.

Alas, this poor man did not feel the force of the blessing promised in Proverbs. He looked to earthly possessions for happiness, and forgot that it was better to be poor in purse, than poor in spirit, for indeed most truly "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich."

Then a great fear came upon those who saw this terrible punishment. The young men arose, and wrapping the dead man's garments about him, and carrying him out, they laid him in the grave.

His wife did not know what had become of her husband as she came into the house where the apostles were, about three hours after. Peter wanted to see if she would tell the truth,



and so he asked her if she sold the land for so much, meaning the amount which had been given him.

She answered without any hesitation: "Yes, for so much."

Then Peter was indignant, and he asked her how she dared to agree with her husband to defy the Lord.

"Behold," he said, "the feet of them who have buried thy husband, are at the door, and shall carry thee out."

She spoke not a word, but falling at his feet, she died, as did her husband, and the same young men buried her by his side.

Was that not a dreadful judgment upon this man and his wife? They should not have listened to the temptings of Satan, but should have acted honestly and truthfully. They **could** not deceive their Lord.

These things agitated the people, and they began to flock in still greater numbers to hear the apostles, and to bring their sick to be cured. And all who were brought were healed.

The high priests were very indignant now. They saw that these works of mercy were going on, in spite of their commands, and they feared that soon all the people would believe on the Christ whom they had slain.

They ordered the apostles thrown into prison with the criminals and malefactors.

In the night an angel threw open the doors, and the apostles went out, while he said to them:

“Go and stand in the temple, and speak the words of truth to them.”

The next morning when the high priest called the council together, they sent for the prisoners. The officers came back and told them that the prison doors were locked, and the guards were standing without, but when they opened the huge doors, the prison was empty!

Great was their surprise, and they did not know what would come next. While they were talking about this wonderful escape, a man came in and told them that the men who had been put in prison were in the temple preaching.

The captain and other officers hurried to the temple, and took them gently into custody. They knew if they used roughness they would assuredly be stoned by the people, for they, many of them, loved these teachers.

Again the high priest asked them why they still preached against his orders, but Peter fearlessly replied:

“We must obey God rather than men.”

He said much more to these wicked rulers, and they grew so fierce in their anger, that they resolved to kill the apostles.

One among them, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was a doctor of law, and a man of some influence, stood up and advised the others not to do so wicked an act. He wisely said:

"If this counsel or work be of men, it will come to nothing.

"But if it be of God, you cannot overthrow it. Look out that you are not found fighting against God."

The other chief priests listened to his well-chosen arguments, and yet they were resolved to punish the apostles for their disobedience, so they ordered them beaten, and let them depart.

They went their way, rejoicing that they were considered worthy to suffer for their beloved Jesus.

And still every day in the temple, and in all the houses near, they taught and spoke to the people of Jesus.

CHAPTER XXIX.

STEPHEN DIES A MARTYR.

The disciples were growing in numbers, and yet there were not enough to instruct those who would listen. The people began to murmur because the poorer ones were neglected. So the Twelve called the other disciples to them, and appointed several men or deacons, as we would call them, who took charge of the alms and dealt them out to the needy.

One of these deacons, Stephen, was very earnest in doing good. He was full of faith and love, and he worked great miracles among the poor.

Because he did these works, certain of the synagogue hated him, and violently disputed with him. He spoke with such wisdom that they were silenced, but their hearts were very wicked, and they hired men to say that they heard him talk impiously against Moses, and against God.

They made this a pretext to seize him and bring him before the council. Every one who looked upon his face saw that it was pure and holy like an angel's.

When he was accused by these enemies, of blasphemy, he answered for himself. He told them about Moses, and how he delivered the children of Israel from bondage, and how Moses had foretold the coming of Christ. And this good Stephen stood there and defied the cruel men around him. He said to them:

"You stiff-necked people, you always turn against the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do ye."

He told them their fathers had always persecuted the prophets, and those who told of the coming of Christ, whom they had now betrayed and murdered.

How the council frowned on him, and gnashed their teeth



THE MARTYRDOM OF ST. STEPHEN.

in rage. They could not bear to hear the truth.

Stephen, looking steadily up into heaven, said:

“I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”

This was more than they could endure. They placed their

hands over their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord, and bore him out of the city.

They laid down his clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

What did Stephen do? Did he call down punishment upon his murderers? No, while they beat him and stoned him, and the cruel blows were rained upon him, he kept crying, "Lord receive my spirit." Then he kneeled down and asked God not to blame them for what they were doing; and with that loving prayer upon his lips, "he fell asleep."

Thus died the first martyr for the church of God.

CHAPTER XXX.

PHILIP CONVERTS A RICH MAN.

From this time the good men who were trying to make other people better, were treated very cruelly. The church which they were trying to establish at Jerusalem was persecuted continually, and those who believed, were scattered everywhere.

Philip, a very good man, who had been made a deacon, went down to Samaria, and there he told the people about that dear Lord who had been crucified, and who was willing to receive them.

He did many miracles, for God gave him the power. Wicked spirits came out of those who were possessed by them, and the lame and the palsied came to be healed; and there was great joy in all the places round.

A man named Simon, a great sorcerer, dwelt in the city of Samaria. He had always been very much talked about because he could do some very strange things, and he always pretended that he was a very remarkable man and should be held in great awe. Many thought he had this power from God. But he had not.

Simon became curious to hear Philip, and when he saw the great miracles he was doing, and that so many people were being baptized, he went to him and told him he believed, and wanted him to baptize him too. So Philip baptized him, but Simon was only watching the apostle so as to learn how he did those miracles. He could not understand that it was through

the spirit which God poured upon His followers that they were worked out. He thought that it was an art that could be taught by man.

He went to Peter one day, after that apostle had laid his hands upon a sick man, and cured him, and said:

“Give me also this power, that I, too, may do these wonders.”

He also offered him money to teach him how to heal.

Peter answered him with sternness:

“Thy money perish with thee. Thou hast thought that the gift of God can be bought with money.”

He told him that his heart was wicked yet—it had not been made clean, and he must pray to God for forgiveness for the wicked desires he cherished.

Simon was humbled, and ashamed.

He begged Peter to pray to the Lord for him, that no evil come upon him for his impious offer. He was more afraid of the punishment, than he was of thinking wrong.

Would it not have been far better to have said that he had done wrong, and asked God to forgive him, than to fear the penalty, and not feel sorry for the sin?

Philip was a very earnest preacher, and he brought many people to see the truth and follow it.

One day an angel appeared to him and told him to go to the south part of the country. This was a desert, and Philip, though he may have wondered in his heart what there was for him to do there, went at once. And he soon learned what he was sent there for. As he went along the road he met a man of great authority, a man who had a very important position, for he had

charge of all the treasures belonging to Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians. He had been to Jerusalem to worship, in the temple, and was now going home.

When Philip met him he was sitting in his chariot reading from Esaias, the prophet. And the spirit said to Philip:

“Go near his chariot.”



Philip went straight toward him, and asked him if he understood the book he was reading.

The great man acknowledged that he did not, and he wished some one would explain it to him, and he invited Philip to sit in his chariot with him.

He was reading that passage which the prophet had written

so long before, in which he said: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth."

"I am sure the little children who have read this book so far, who was meant by this Lamb. But this man, who was so high in power, could not understand it.

Philip took pity on him, for he saw that he really wished to learn, and at once, when the Ethiopian asked him whether the prophet spoke of himself or some other man, made answer that it was Jesus of whom this had been foretold. He went on and preached about him with such power that the rich man, by whose side he sat, wanted to be baptized at once into this new faith. He said:

"Here is a stream, what hinders my being baptized?"

And Philip wishing to test him, said: "If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest."

And he replied: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

He bade the chariot to halt, and Philip baptized him at once, and as soon as they had come out of the water, Philip disappeared. The Spirit hid him from his companion's sight, but the man who had thus found peace in believing, went homeward happy and content.

Philip was next found at Azotus; and he went into all the cities, never growing weary of his mission, and at last he went down to Cesarea.

CHAPTER XXXI.

SAUL IS CONVERTED.

You remember that Saul was one of those who consented to the death of Stephen. Saul was a Grecian Jew, so called because he was born outside of Palestine, but he was a rigid Pharisee. He hated the Christians, and he asked the Sanhedrim, the great religious body, for permission to search out all who believed on Jesus, and bring them to punishment.

Think how cruel and wicked he was. He would not spare even women, but brought them bound with chains to Jerusalem.

While he was going on this errand, he came near Damascus, when suddenly a bright light shone all about him, and he was so startled that he fell on the ground, when he heard a voice saying: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

He asked with trembling voice, "Lord, who art thou?" The same voice made answer—"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

He knew in a moment that he had been very wicked, and he humbly asked the Lord what He would have him do?

He was told to go into the city, and there he would learn what was required of him. He opened his eyes but he was blind. He could see no one. The men that were with him, heard the voice, but they could see no person.

So they took Saul by the hand, and led him into Damascus. Three days he neither ate nor drank, nor could he see the light of day, or face of man. There was a certain disciple who lived at Damascus named Ananias. And he had a vision from

the Lord, in which he was told to go to a certain street **named** Straight, and ask for Saul of Tarsus. And when he found him, he was to lay his hands upon him, and bring back his sight.

Ananias was a little astonished that he should be sent on such an errand, and he said to the Lord, he had heard of Saul, how wicked he was, and how much evil he had done to the believers at Jerusalem.

The Lord told this disciple to do as he had said, for he had chosen Saul to bear His name and sound His praises before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel.

Ananias went as he was told, and when he entered the house where he was, saluted him as "Brother," and he touched his eyes, saying that the Lord Jesus had sent him. The darkness fell at once from his eyes, and he saw and was baptized.

From that time he preached the beautiful truth that Jesus was the Son of God, and many listened to him and believed.

Saul or Paul was the first missionary who labored outside the Jewish people, for he taught that the Jews and Gentiles were equal under the new dispensation—the religion of love.

He was ever after called Paul, though why he changed his name we are not told, but it may have been because as Saul he had been so cruel that when he became a new man, he wished to take a new name.

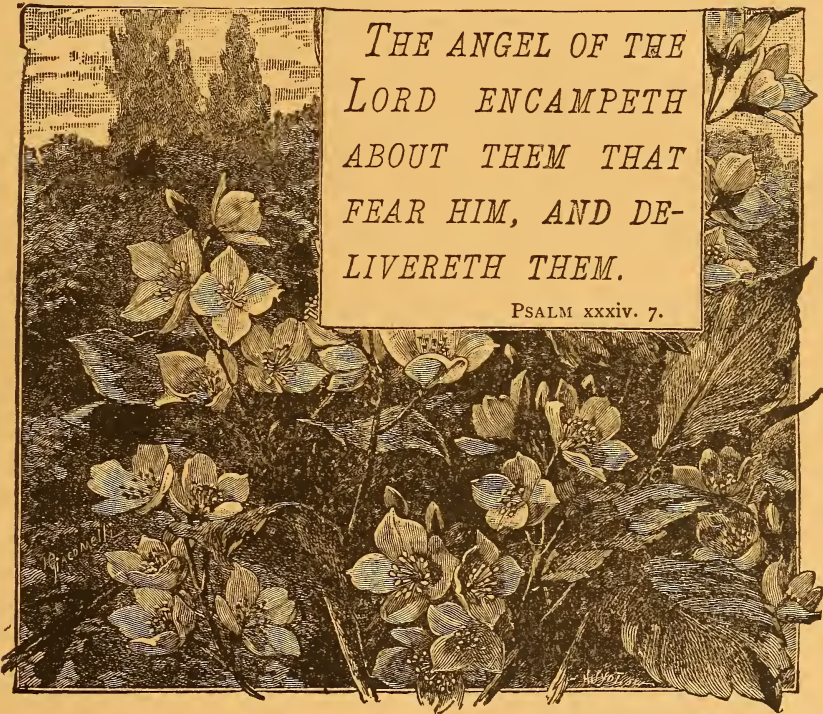
But the holy book tells us that he was called, henceforth, Paul. The Jews were confounded when they saw this strange miracle. Why, they had looked upon Paul as one of the most bitter persecutors the disciples had, and now he had become a disciple with them. That was more than they could **submit too**,

so when he preached so boldly the faith he had embraced, they lay in wait to kill him.

But as the thirty-fourth Psalm, seventh verse says:

“The angel of the Lord encampeth about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

So Paul put his trust in the Lord, protected by a higher



power than man, and as they were about to seize him, and were watching the gates of the city day and night, the disciples waited until it was quite dark one night, and lowered him over the walls of the city in a basket and he escaped their hatred, and went to Jerusalem, where he joined the disciples, although at first they were doubtful of him, for they could not believe he had been truly converted.

But Barnabas went with him and proved to them how sincere Paul was, and how well he had labored in the name of Jesus, and they welcomed him then, as a brother. When the Grecians tried to slay him, they sent him down to Tarsus, his native city, to preach the word of God.

They would take the word of Barnabas as to Paul's sincerity, for he, although a Jew of the tribe of Levi, and born of wealthy parents, was one of the original seventy disciples. His name was Joseph, and he had done much to rid the Christian faith of senseless Jewish forms, and had also done much missionary work.

CHAPTER XXXII.

PETER WORKS MIRACLES.

Peter was busy, healing and teaching,. As he was journeying from place to place, he found himself one day at Lydda. There was a man there who had been eight years lying on a bed, unable to rise. He was palsied.

Peter said to him, "Eneas, Jesus will make you whole. Rise, and make thy bed." The man rose and walked, a well man, and a rejoicing one. Some who knew of this deed, "turned to the Lord."

But the miracles which God gave Peter power to perform were not ended. Near to Lydda was a small place called Joppa, where a woman lived, who had led a very good life. She had always done all she could for the Lord, and had been very generous to the poor.

She was taken sick, and died, and after they had prepared her for burial, they laid her in an upper chamber.

They sent two men to Peter, asking him to come to Joppa, where Dorcas lay dead. Peter, always ready to do his Master's work, went with these men, and coming to the house, he was met by many poor women who were weeping bitterly, for they had lost a kind friend.

Peter bidding them leave the room, knelt down in prayer. Then turning toward the woman who lay dead, he said, "Dorcas, arise."

She opened her eyes, and then seeing Peter, she sat up; taking her by the hand, he called the women and showed them their kind benefactor, Dorcas, alive.

Great was the rejoicing among her friends, and the number who came to the Lord, on hearing of this miracle, was very great.

The Gentiles were despised by nearly every one, and when the disciples heard that Peter had eaten with some of these people, they spoke to him about it, but he told them that he had been given a vision from heaven, in which he was commanded to eat with any one who believed, and was made clean.

“For,” said Peter, “God is no respecter of persons. But He accepts all from any nation or people who feareth Him and worketh good deeds.”

All that is needed to secure that acceptance is to “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”



Believe on the
Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be
saved.

ACTS xvi. 31.

God loves best the humble and the meek, and those who follow His ways. Wealth and position have no weight with Him. He gives heed to those who love and honor Him, no matter how poor or lowly they may be.

Ever since Stephen had perished at the hands of the Jews, the disciples had been scattered abroad, and had been in Phenicia and Cyprus, and other distant countries, and had talked to the Jews only. But now they came back to Antioch, and began to preach to the Greeks, and the blessing of the Spirit followed them, and hundreds were converted. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas, who was a very good and devout man, down there, and bade him help the disciples, and he went first to Tarsus, to find Paul. Together they journeyed to Antioch, and there they spent a whole year, teaching the people. It was here in Antioch, that they first began to be called Christians.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

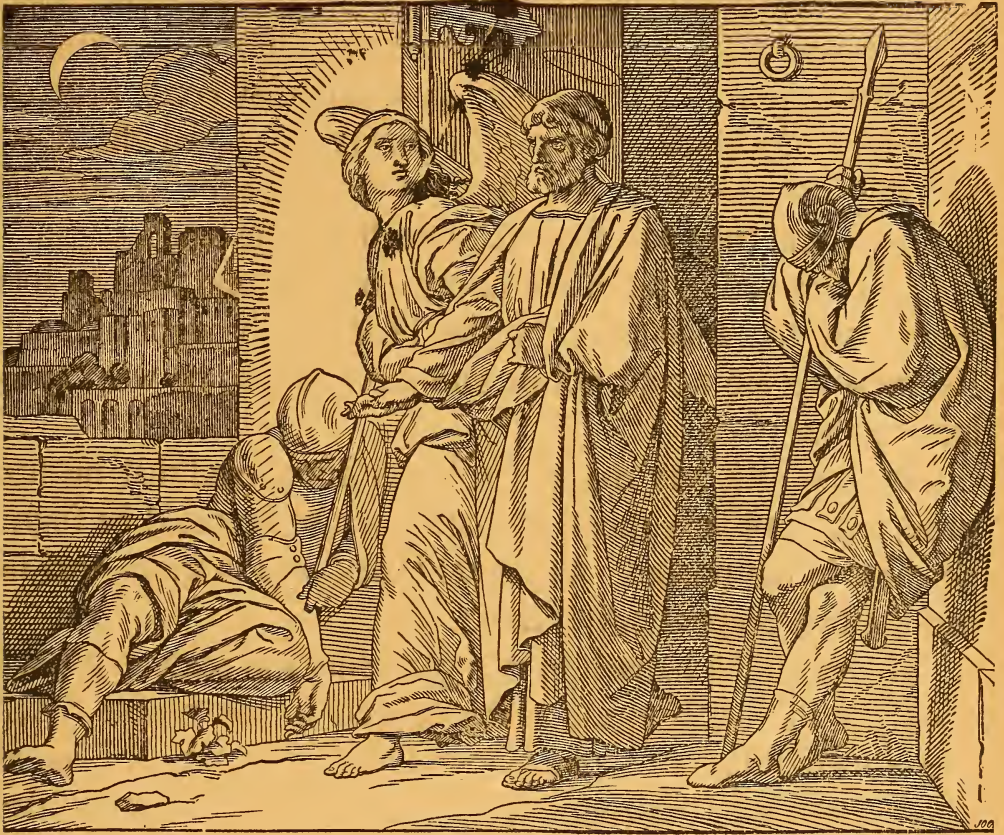
PETER IS DELIVERED FROM PRISON.

Herod Agrippa was the king at that time, and he was another wicked man, as all the Herods had been before him. He hated the Christians and began to persecute them. And he seized James, the brother of John, and had him cut to death with a sword.

You remember that these two brothers were Zebedee's children, and their mother had asked Jesus when He was on earth to give her two sons places on His right and left hand. He had promised her that they should drink out of His cup, and now His word was fulfilled—James had died for his Lord's glory.

This cruel deed pleased the Jews so much, that Herod added another crime to his others. He had Peter seized and thrown into prison. He placed four quaternions of soldiers to guard him by turns, and determined after the Easter had passed, to give him up to the people: God had other intentions for Peter, and in the night, when the soldiers were sleeping because they knew that Peter was bound with chains, the dark and gloomy prison was illumined with a light like day. An angel stood there who touched him on the side and said, "Arise quickly."

The chains fell from his hands and rattled down upon the hard stone floor, but the soldiers did not awaken. And he told Peter to wrap his garments about him and put on his sandals and follow him.



THE LIBERATION OF ST. PETER.

He moved quickly after the angel, and together they passed through the wards of the prison, until they came to the heavy gate, which was locked, when it flew open of its own accord. The angel then disappeared, and Peter gave thanks to the Lord, whom he knew had delivered him from the hands of those who would have killed him.

Peter went at once to the home of the mother of Mark, where he knew he would find friends.

The girl who came to the gate to admit him, when she heard Peter speak, was so glad to hear his voice, that she ran in and

told the assembled guests who was just outside the door.

They said to the girl, whose name was Rhoda—"You have lost your senses." She said she had not, and Peter kept on knocking. So some, bolder than the rest, opened the door, and were astonished to see him, for they thought he was still in prison, and they could not tell how he had escaped.

He motioned to them not to cry out aloud, and then he told them how the angel sent by the Lord had brought him out. He knew his life would not be safe there, and so he went away into another place.

As soon as it was day the soldiers discovered that he had gone, and were very much alarmed because he could be found nowhere in the prison. And cruel Herod was so angry, that he had the two keepers put to death.

After arraying himself in rich garments and seating himself upon his throne, he made a long speech to the people. And they shouted that he spoke with the voice of a god, and not as a common man. He took their praise with great pleasure, and did not deny that he was not worthy of it, and God smote him sorely, "and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost."

This Herod, of whom I have been telling you, was a grandson of Herod the Great, who was king when the Saviour was born.

After he had thus impiously allowed the people to worship him as a divine being, the hand of God fell upon him and he died this miserable death, after having reigned seven years.

After his death, "the word grew and multiplied." Earnestly the apostles labored, and the people everywhere flocked to hear them.

The hatred and opposition which always followed the truth was close upon them. After working many miracles, and bringing many Jews and Gentiles to accept the truth, the persecutions by the Jews became more open, and Paul and Barnabas were driven out of the country, and they departed into Iconium.

Here the unbelieving Jews made the people think they were false teachers, and they grew so fierce against the two apostles, that a plot was laid to stone them to death. Their time had not come, however, to die. God had more work for them to perform. So He put it into their hearts to flee into Lystra, and there they preached the gospel to the region that lay all around. Here, as well as everywhere else, sickness and sorrow were to be found. A man who had never walked a step in his life, was sitting where he could hear Paul's voice. This man had faith in his heart—faith that he could be cured through Paul's help. The apostle looked upon him, and in a loud voice called to him to stand on his feet. He sprang up, and walked with a firm step away.

The people cried out that the gods were come down to earth in the forms of men. You see they did not give the credit to the one only and true God, but they believed that their heathen gods had done this great miracle.

Wishing to honor Paul and his companion, Barnabas, they called them Jupiter and Mercury. And the priests of Jupiter brought oxen and flowers to the gates, and would have sacrificed them to show their pleasure.

This displeased the two apostles. They knew that God alone deserved the glory, and they tore their garments as a

mark of sorrow, and went out among the people, and reproved them sternly for their idolatry, telling them that they were but men like themselves, and that they had come to preach unto them the truths of the living God, who would have them turn from such vanities and worship only Him.

The people listened, not half understanding them, and still they insisted on offering up these sacrifices.

Certain Jews came down to Lystra and Derbe about this time, who inflamed the multitude that had gathered there, and they rushed upon Paul with stones, and beat him so that they thought they had killed him, and they dragged him out of the city, and left him.

God's loving care was over him, and while the other disci-



ples stood over his seemingly lifeless body, lamenting and mourning, he rose up and returned to the city. The next day he went with Barnabas to Jerusalem, and there they taught many.

After visiting many places, and speaking to all who would hear, they went to Antioch once more, and remained a long time with the other disciples, ever doing the work of their Master.

They always remembered to be gentle and forbearing with those who sinned through weakness and ignorance, for they practiced the grand doctrine that "We that are strong ought to bear with the infirmities of the weak."

CHAPTER XXXIV.

PAUL AND SILAS ARRESTED.

Paul had now chosen Silas for an associate in his labors, while Barnabas took John, and each had gone in different directions, to spread the gospel. Timothy was also chosen to accompany them; he was set apart to the ministry, and was a very faithful disciple. A vision appeared to Paul, and he was called in that vision to go to Macedonia. Thither he went and preached to the women who went to the river side to hear prayer.

A woman named Lydia, who dealt in merchandise, and whose heart was open to instruction, drew near to the apostle, and he baptized her and all her family. She offered freely, the comforts of her home to all the disciples. She regarded it as an honor to receive these ministers of the gospel in her house, but she feared lest she should not be deemed worthy to entertain them.

A girl who had been a soothsayer or teller of the future, "a fortune-teller" as we would call them now, followed Paul and Silas, and testified to their sincerity and power, and declared she would no more make money for her employers, in that wicked manner.

This made them very angry, and they seized Paul and Silas, and forced them to go before the rulers, where they complained of them that they taught the people customs which were not lawful.

They were adjudged guilty, and were beaten with many

stripes and afterward thrown into prison. The jailer was cautioned to watch them very closely, so that they should not escape. He carried them into an inner dungeon, and had their feet fastened in the stocks, so that they could not run away.

This did not keep Paul and Silas from praising God with all their strength. They sang hymns of joy and praise unto their Creator, and their voices sounded through the prison, so that all the prisoners heard them.

Suddenly, at midnight, a great earthquake shook the walls of the prison; the doors flew open, and the ropes and chains fell from the hands of all who were bound. The keeper sprang to his feet in fright, for he had been in a deep sleep, and seeing the doors standing open, he drew his sword and would have killed himself in despair, for he thought the captives had all escaped.

But Paul exclaimed: "Do thyself no harm! We are all here."

Then calling for a light, the jailer sprang into Paul's dungeon, and falling down before the disciples, he entreated them to tell him what he should do to be saved.

Their answer was: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and all thy house."

How little is asked of us! Remember, dear children, that "Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

His soul was made glad, and he pitied Paul and Silas, because they had been scourged, and with his own hands he bathed the cruel marks, and took them to his home, and set food before them. And the keeper and all his house rejoiced in their new-found hope.



In the morning the magistrates sent word that they might leave the prison, but Paul would not go away quietly, and without being heard, so he refused to leave, saying that they had been beaten in public without being guilty of any wrong, and as they were Roman citizens, the magistrates must come themselves and give them their liberty.

The officials were much annoyed when they began to think how they had condemned and punished two innocent men, and they went at once to where they were, and begged them to come out and leave the city.

Paul and Silas went at once to the house of Lydia, where they found the rest of their friends, and after having assured them that they were steadfast in the faith, and were well and happy, they departed to other places.

CHAPTER XXXV.

PAUL UTTERS HIS DEFENCE.

From one city to another Paul journeyed, teaching boldly the word of God, and never tiring. He wrote letters to the churches to strengthen them. He was a zealous missionary, and was the means of working special miracles.

He sailed from Philippi, and went to Troas. Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to celebrate the Lord's supper, he preached to them, and so earnest did he grow, that he did not end his sermon until midnight. The large upper chamber was lit up brightly, and many staid to hear him.

A young man named Eutychus, having been overcome with sleep, fell from the window where he sat, down onto the ground, and when they raised him up they said he was dead.

Paul went down to where he had fallen, and throwing his arms around him, he assured them that he was living. The young man's friends were very glad, and they brought him in the house again, alive and well.

Paul would not go in the ship with the other disciples, who were going to Miletus. He chose to walk hither, that he might preach by the wayside. On reaching that city he called all the elders of the many churches that were founded, and begged them to guard well the flocks which were committed to their care; and to shun disputes and temptations. He wanted them to be steadfast and endure abuse and misunderstanding, for it would all work to the glory of God.

He reminded them how faithfully he had labored, and he

wanted them to do the same. He had not only worked to spread the gospel, but he had toiled with his own hands to maintain himself, that he should not use the means which the cause of Christ needed. He said also, that he was going away, and they would see his face no more.

"I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and so remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, it was more blessed to give than to receive."

He also exhorted them, as he afterward did in his Epistle to the Galatians, to take notice that "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law."

He then knelt down and prayed with them all. And they wept, and kissed Paul, for they loved him and wished to keep him near them. But he entered the ship which was to take him away. The boat touched at several cities, where the disciples found friends.

At last they came to Cesarea, and there they entered the house of Philip, called the Evangelist. Paul was very anxious to go to Jerusalem, but a prophet named Agabus, advised him not to go near that city, for he would be seized and given over to the Gentiles. On hearing this, his friends entreated him not to go, but he would not be persuaded, but answered:

"What mean you—to break my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but to die there for the sake of the Lord Jesus."

They ceased urging him, saying, "The Lord's will be done."



The fruit of the
Spirit is Love
JOY, PEACE,
LONGSUFFERING,
GENTLENESS, GOODNESS,
FAITH, MEEKNESS,
TEMPERANCE:
against such
there is
no LAW.

GAL. V 22, 23

W. Webb

When he reached Jerusalem, he went into the temple after the days of purification had passed, and the Jews who came from Asia, began to stir up a riot. They roused the other Jews to anger, and bade them seize Paul, for he had taught against the law and had brought Greeks into the holy temple, thus making it unclean.

The people were angry, and ran hither and thither, gather-



ST. PAUL MADE PRISONER.

ing together in great knots, and at last they seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and beat him cruelly.

There was such a terrible uproar that the captain of the band of soldiers came to the spot to see what had caused it, and the people were afraid of the soldiers, and they gave Paul up to them. The captain ordered him secured with chains, and then he asked who he was and what he had done. Some cried out one thing, and some another, and he, finding he could not get at the truth, the noise and confusion being so great, ordered Paul brought to the castle.

The crowd followed, clamoring as they had once not long before, for his Master's life. And their cry was nearly the same—"Away with him!"

Paul asked the captain if he might speak to them.

After asking him a few questions, the captain gave him permission. And Paul stood on the steps, where the crowd could both see and hear him, and beckoned to the multitude. And a great silence fell upon them, as he addressed them in the Hebrew tongue.

He stood there, in plain sight of all those people who wanted to kill him, merely because he taught them how they were worshipping false gods, and he told them all his history; how he was born a Jew, and educated in the law of the fathers.

He said: "I persecuted unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons, both men and women."

He narrated all that had befallen him. How on his way to Damascus, the bright light shone from heaven upon him, and he fell on the ground prostrate with fear, and when he asked what the Lord would have him do, he was told to rise and go



ST. PAUL PREACHING.

into Damascus. He went, led by the hands of his friends, for he was blind and could not see, the light had dazzled him so.

But a devout man named Ananias, restored his sight to him. He was then told that God had chosen him to be a witness for Him, and he must be baptized and prepared for the great work for which he was selected.

As he stood there, telling of all these things and much else, the crowd that had been listening intently to his words, suddenly broke out in angry tones, and cried:

“Away with such a fellow from the earth; for it is not fit that he should live.”

They tore their clothes and threw dust into the air, as signs of their rage.

The chief captain ordered him brought at once into the castle, to be scourged.

As they bound him with thongs, he said to the centurion standing near:

“Is it lawful to scourge a Roman, who is uncondemned?”

The centurion hastened to the chief captain, and warned him not to punish Paul, for he was a Roman.

The captain came to him and inquired if it were true, and Paul told him he was, and that he was free born.

Then the captain was alarmed to think he had bound a Roman, and he did not have him scourged.

The next morning, he was brought before the council, and the chief priests, and told to speak. But when he declared that he was innocent of having done anything wrong, Ananias, the high priest, commanded one of the soldiers to strike him in the face.

Then said Paul: “God shall smite thee, thou whited wall, for thou pretendest to judge by the law, and thou strikest a man whom the law has not yet made guilty.”

He cried out loudly that he was a Pharisee, and the son of a Pharisee, for that sect believed that the dead rose again, thus believing something which Paul taught. A great murmuring arose; the Pharisees and Sadducees, the two sects of Jews, quarreled among themselves, and the scribes who belonged to the Pharisees declared that they could find no evil in this man.

The chief captain, fearing that he would be pulled in pieces between them, gave the word to the soldiers to take Paul by

force and carry him inside of the castle, where he would be safe.

The Lord had not forsaken him, for in the night Paul saw him, and he bade him "Be of good cheer."

The Jews were not satisfied with having Paul taken from them, and forty of their most determined men bound themselves by a solemn oath to neither eat nor drink until they had killed him.

Going up to the council they made a plot that they should insist upon his being brought before them the next day, as though they would ask more about him and they would rush upon him and murder him.

A young man heard this wicked scheme and he went to Paul and told him of it.

The apostle sent word to the chief captain that a young man wished to see him, and when the latter was brought into his presence he related all he had heard.

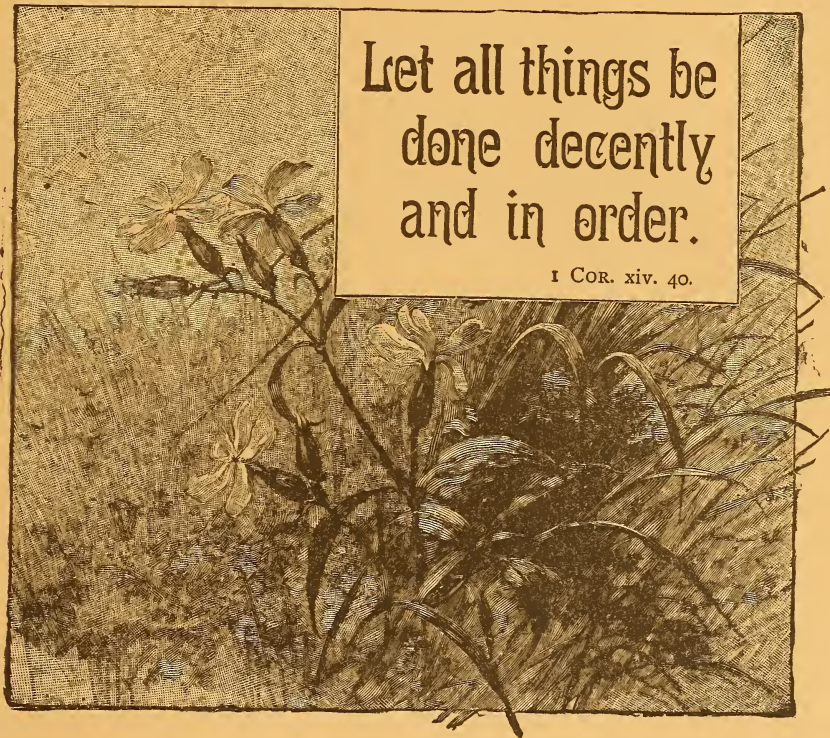
The chief captain charged him to tell no one else but him, then calling two centurions he bade them gather together two hundred foot soldiers, seventy mounted soldiers, and two hundred spearmen, and to start at the third hour of the night, with Paul, and take him to Felix, the governor of that province. He also wrote a letter to him, saying that he could find no sin against Paul worthy of death, or even punishment.

He furthermore wrote that he had learned of the intended attack against Paul's life; he would send him at once to him to be accused or set free, as he should deem best.

When Felix read the letter, he said he would hear his case when his accusers should come to testify against him. He left him in the care of soldiers, in Herod's judgment hall.

Felix was slow to act, and cautious, but he wished all proceedings to be done according to law. His wish was that "all things be done decently and in order."

Five days passed away before Ananias, the high priest, with the elders and an orator named Tertullus, appeared against Paul.



He openly accused him of stirring up the people, and profaning the temple.

Felix heard the words of the orator, and all the Jews assented. He beckoned to Paul to speak, and again this faithful apostle simply told the story of his conversion, and his labors in behalf of those who would know the better way. He protested his innocence of any of the sins he was charged with.

Felix was perplexed. He could find no harm in anything he had done, and he said he would wait till he could see Lysias, the chief captain, before he would decide what to do.

He knew Paul was innocent, for he placed a centurion over him, with permission to let his friends visit him and minister unto him. He also allowed his own wife, who was a Jewess, this great governor did, to listen to Paul's teachings. But when Paul reasoned of the sins which people were committing, and of the wrath which our heavenly Father felt against their evil ways, then Felix trembled and could not bear to hear his denunciations, and he promised to listen further at some more convenient season.

He was willing to hear the word, but he could not decide to



be as the apostle said, "Doers of the word, and not hearers, only."

Is that right, to put off doing what is right to a more convenient season? God has distinctly said, "*Now* is the accepted time," and so, little children, when you feel you have done wrong, and want to make amends for it, don't say—"I will do what is right some other time. I will just be naughty this once." No—rather say—"I will be good now. This very moment I will begin."

Then the dear Father who loves you, will bless your efforts, and reward them.

Felix kept Paul in prison many months, for he would not boldly say: He is innocent, though his conscience would not permit him to punish him any more.



WAILING WALL OF THE JEWS.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

FESTUS HEARS PAUL'S STORY.

The time had come for Felix to leave the office of governor. Festus was to take his place. So Felix, to please the wicked Jews, who had never ceased to ask for Paul's life, left him in prison.

As soon as the new governor came into the province, he went up to Jerusalem, and here the high priests accused the apostle of having done very wicked things. And they begged Festus to send for him to be brought to Jerusalem, for they still meant to lay in wait to kill him.

Alas, these wicked people were still unbelieving, and knew not what was to fall upon that proud city. Her streets no more echo with traffic, and the voices of the crowds who go up to worship, but huge stones of the ancient wall which once encircled her still stand. In the western wall, 300 to 420 feet from the southwestern angle, they are still to be seen; here every Friday, Jews and pilgrims visit this desolate spot to mourn the fallen city and temple, and pray for their restoration.

Festus would not hear to that. He must have suspected their intentions, for he told them he would keep Paul in Cesarea, and whoever chose to go down with him when he returned thither, might do so openly, that he could examine him and decide as to his guilt.

Ten days after that he went to Cesarea, accompanied by many Jews, and he had Paul brought into the judgment hall,

and those who came from Jerusalem said many wicked things about him, which they could not prove.

Paul simply denied all, and declaring he had done no wrong toward any one, he appealed to Cæsar.

King Agrippa and Bernice came to Cesarea to visit Festus. He told them the story of his captive—how that Felix had left him in prison, and how the Jews called him a bad man, and how when he gave them permission to charge Paul with the sins they said he was guilty of, they proved to be such simple things that he could find no cause for holding him.

Agrippa was very curious to hear Paul talk, and the next day, he and Bernice, and Festus, together with the chief captains and all the great men, dressed themselves with splendor, and went to the judgment hall, to hear his defence.

Paul once more told of his conversion, and the vision he had seen, and of the risen Christ. But Festus tried to silence him, and cried out:

“Paul thou art not right in thy mind. Much knowledge hath made thee crazy.”

Paul answered sternly: “I am not mad. I speak the words of truth and soberness.”

Agrippa listened with deep interest; and his testimony to Paul's sincerity was: “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

Paul's devout reply was, “I would that thou, and all the rest who hear me this day, were not only almost, but altogether, such as I am, except being bound.”

He returned good for evil. Although the crowd who pressed

around, hated him, yet he wished them all to be as he was—happy and safe in the trust of his Lord.

The king, and the governor, and the rest who sat with them, rose up and talked together in a low tone, and declared that he might have been set at liberty, for aught he had done wrong, if he had not appealed to Cæsar.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

PAUL IS SENT TO ROME.

It was now determined to send Paul to Rome, where he would be decided innocent or guilty, and he, with many other prisoners, was put in a vessel, under the care of a centurion of Cæsar's band, named Julius.

This man treated Paul very kindly and when he reached Sidon, he gave him permission to go on shore and visit some of his friends.

They continued on their voyage, passing many places on their route, and when they were near Crete, Paul warned the centurion that a terrible storm was coming up, which would damage the boat, and cost them their lives.

Julius would not heed him—he did not think Paul could know anything about sailing, and so they kept on. But a tempest suddenly sprang up, and they threw out some of the cargo, and did all they could to keep the boat from sinking.

The storm lasted several days, and their hopes of being saved grew very faint. Paul told them they should not have left Crete, but he told them be hopeful, for an angel of God had come to him and told him that every one should be brought safe to shore on a certain island.

Then they began to feel comforted and they ate both bread and meat for they had fasted for many days, their anxiety had been so great.

They obeyed him, and ate with cheerfulness, and he blessed the food.

There were two hundred and seventy-six souls in the ship, and at daylight, they found themselves on a strange shore, and they ran the ship aground.

The soldiers proposed to have all the prisoners killed, for fear they might escape, but the centurion would not listen to so wicked a suggestion. He told all who could swim, to cast themselves into the sea and get to land. Those who could not swim were to commit themselves to rafts and broken timbers. So every one, those who could swim and those who could not, reached the land in safety.

This island was called Melita, and the people who dwelt there were savages. But their hearts were tender, and they kindled fires to warm and dry those who were wet and cold.

Paul gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, which was burning so brightly. A viper (a very venomous snake), came out of the fire, driven forth by the heat, and fastened itself upon his hand.

The savages thought at once that he was very wicked, and that the viper was sent to punish him, but when Paul shook it carelessly off into the fire, without being harmed, they changed their minds, and called him a god. Of course this was wrong—he was a man, and a very good man, but there was only one God. But these barbarians had never heard of the true and living God.

The head man of the island was named Publius. His father lay very ill, and Paul visited him, and laying his hand upon him, he prayed.

God answered his prayer, and the disease left the sick man. Then others came to be healed, and none went away disappointed.

After waiting three months, they left the island in a vessel, and started once more on their journey to Rome.

When they arrived there, the centurion who had shown such kindness to them all, delivered up the prisoners to the captain of the guard.

Paul was treated with more courtesy than the rest. He was allowed to dwell in a house by himself, with one soldier as a guard.

After he had been in Rome three days, Paul called the chief



ST. PAUL'S ARRIVAL IN ROME.

men among the Jews, and demanded a hearing. He told them he had been kept a prisoner, and they appointed a day in which to hear his cause.

Many came to him, and he taught them concerning Jesus, both from the law of Moses and the prophets.

“And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.”



The Jews went away, much disturbed and divided among themselves.

Paul was allowed to live in peace and quiet in a house which he hired. He was allowed to preach, and was regarded as a prisoner at large.

Here he received all who came to him, and preached continually those truths which related to his Lord and Master. And no man forbade his doing so.

And from Rome he wrote his epistles to the Philippians, to Philemon, to the Colossians, and to the Ephesians.

Thus the apostles labored faithfully and continually, to carry on the mission with which they were intrusted, by their beloved Master. And at last when they laid down their lives in His service, they heard the welcoming sound of "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

PAUL WRITES TO THE CHURCHES.

After St. Paul went to Rome, he wrote several letters to the churches, in which he told them to be steadfast and do the works which had been set for them to do.

These letters were full of thankfulness to God for His help and praying that they would all be sustained.

He also bade them to be humble, diligent and cheerful. God loves a cheerful heart—one that takes every thing that comes, with patience and a willing, loving disposition.

False teachers he warned them against. There are many, alas, to-day, who mislead and mock those who are trying to do right.

Remember children, you can try those teachers—the surest test of their worth and honesty is the Bible. In that you can find the help which will guide you as to forming a true opinion of them.

This beautiful verse from Phillipians will show you what is asked of you.

“Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, *think on these things.*”

Paul wrote in the same manner to Philemon, to the Colossians, and to the Ephesians.

You see he was never weary of following the master he had chosen, and doing his work in season and out of season.

About this time he was set at liberty. Nothing could be brought against him and the rulers were willing to let him go free.

He wrote to the Hebrews, and then went to the Isle of Crete, where he left Titus to set all things in order, and ordain elders for ministers in all the cities round about.

In all his epistles he promised many beautiful things to all who loved God, and obeyed Him. And these same gifts we can all have to-day, just as surely as did those people of old, if we do right.

What is it to do right? Why to love God and serve Him. Does that not seem very easy to do?

St. Paul wrote letters to Timothy I, to Titus and to Timothy II. The epistles of St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude, appeared at this time.

John addressed the people to whom he wrote, as little children because they must become as simple and innocent as little children before they could receive the word. He said to them:

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

“He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten son into the world, that we might live through him.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

The apostles were faithful laborers. and were willing and ready to die for the Lord.

Peter and Paul were seized and suffered martyrdom at Rome toward the end of the cruel Nero's reign.

Jerusalem, the holy city, over which Jesus wept, and which he had prophesied would fall, was besieged, sacked and burned. Its lovely streets and fine buildings were swept away by the spirit of destruction. Over a million Jews perished, and nearly one hundred thousand more were taken prisoners.

Many were filled with despair and took their own lives, while still a greater number starved to death or died in exile.

Thus was fulfilled Christ's sad prophecy—"Behold your house is left unto you desolate."

John was now made the object of Domitian's hatred, and was sent away into the Isle of Patmos. It was while he dwelt here that he received the Revelation and wrote it, that all might know how beautiful the glories of a better world are.

And now, children, you have had given you the story of the Bible, and you must love to study its pages. That grand book was written for you and for all mankind. By it you can learn how to live, and see how much God loves each one of you.

The divine command is—"Search the Scriptures." And the child who "remembers his creator in the days of his youth" will always have a sure and safe anchor to which he can cling when old age comes on.



APOCALYPSE.

SOWING THE SEED.

In the vineyard of our Father
Daily work we find to do;
Scattered gleanings we may gather
Though we are but young and **few**.
Little clusters
Help to fill the garner too.

Toiling early in the morning,
Catching moments through the **day**,
Nothing small or lowly scorning
While we work, and watch, and **pray**.
Gathering gladly
Free-will offerings by the way.

Not for selfish praise or glory,
Not for objects nothing worth
But to send the blessed story
Of the Gospel o'er the earth,
Telling mortals
Of our Lord and Saviour's birth.

Up and ever at our calling,
Till in death our lips are dumb,
Or till—sin's dominion falling—
Christ shall in His kingdom come,
And His children
Reach their everlasting home.

Steadfast then in our endeavor,
Heavenly Father, may we be;
And forever, and forever,
We will give the praise to thee;
Hallelujah
Singing through eternity.

“OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”

I think when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How He called little children as lambs to His fold.
I should like to have been with them then.

I wish that his hands had been placed on my head,
That His arm had been thrown around me,
That I might have seen His kind look when He said,
“Let the little ones come unto me.”

Yet still to His footstool in prayer I may go
And ask for a share in His love;
And if I thus earnestly seek Him below,
I shall see Him and hear Him above.

In that beautiful place He has gone to prepare
For all who are washed and forgiven,
Many dear children shall be with Him there,
For “of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

“THE CHILD JESUS.”

Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
 Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
 And his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
 He would honor and obey
Love, and watch the lowly maiden
 In whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
 Day by day like us he grew.
He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us he knew.
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above.
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven
Set at God's right hand on high.
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.

"The widow's mite!" Who ever saw,
Since Jesus saw, that wondrous sight,
Fulfilling all the royal law
To God and man, "the widow's mite"?

And who for fame, or who for love
To body, intellect, or soul,
To man below, or God above,
Has yielded, since that hour, the whole?

Not one! not one!—the Jewish age
Has only such example shown;
It stands, a marvel, on the page
Of eighteen hundred years, alone.

“She, of her penury, gave all,”
And shrank, in silence, from the crowd;
Thou canst thy gifts by hundreds call,
And set thy name among the proud.

Yet give, but on thy deed do not,
So often done, a falsehood write;
Nor to foul avarice add the blot
Of naming it “the widow’s mite.”

Nor deem the blazoned gift of gold,
Or paltry alms that fear the light,
For “blest memorial” will be told,
Or thought of, as “the widow’s mite.”

WILLIAM B. TAPPAN.

DENIAL BY PETER.

We look with scorn on Peter's thrice told lie!
Boldly we say, "Good brother, you nor I,
So near the sacred Lord, the Christ indeed,
Had dared his name and marvelous grace deny."

O futile boast! O haughty lips, be dumb!
Unheralded by boisterous trump or drum,
How oft 'mid silent eves, and midnight chimes,
Vainly to us our pleading Lord hath come.

Knocked at our hearts, striven to enter there;
But we poor slaves of mortal sin and care,
Sunk in deep sloth, or bound by spiritual sleep,
Heard not the voice divine, the tender prayer!

Ah! well for us if some late spring-tide hour
Faith still may bring, with blended shine and shower;
If through warm tears a late remorse may shed,
Our wakened souls put forth one heavenly flower!

PAUL H. HAYNE.

HOUR OF DEATH.

Leaves have their time to fall,
And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath,
And stars to set—but all,
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death!

Day is for mortal care,
Eve for glad meetings round the joyous hearth,
Night for the dreams of sleep, the voice of
prayer,
But all for thee, thou mightiest of the earth.

The banquet hath its hour,
Its feverish hour of mirth, and song, and wine;
There comes a day for grief's o'erwhelming
power,
A time of softer tears—but all are thine.

Youth and the opening rose
May look like things too glorious for decay,
And smile at thee; but thou art not of those
That wait the ripened bloom to seize their prey.

We know when moons shall wane,
When summer birds from far shall cross the sea,
When autumn's hue shall tinge the golden grain;
But who shall teach us when to look for thee?

Is it when Spring's first gale
Comes forth to whisper where the violets lie?
Is it when roses in our paths grow pale?
They have one season—all are ours to die!

Thou art where billows foam,
Thou art where music melts upon the air;
Thou art around us in our peaceful home,
And the world calls us forth,—and thou art there.

Thou art where friend meets friend,
Beneath the shadow of the elm to rest;
Thou art where foe meets foe and trumpets
 rend
The skies, and swords beat down the princely
 crest.

MRS. F. D. HEMANS.



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Welcome Home.